www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XIX, Issue No. 169 **THURSDAY** JULY 16, 2009



#### OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support letting the CNMI government borrow money to pay off its \$231.6 million debt with the **Retirement Fund?** 

www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote

# PANDEMIC ALERT

As of July 15, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pan-

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in humanto-human transmission sufficient to sustain

Phase 4: Verified Transmission of an animal transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu. contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public



#### **New Photos**

North Korea released new pictures of Kim Jong II touring a factory and appearing generally OK.

ASIA...Page 15

'CNMI may pay \$3M annually to repay \$200M loan' PAGE 3 Senate assigns half of Tinian public lands for homestead. PAGE 6

# Jobless alien workers increasing

## Workers lament \$50 fee, lack of available jobs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA REPORTER

he Labor Department has been seeing a spike in the number of jobless alien workers who want to be given more time to find jobs on the islands.

See JOBLESS on Page 4

# MHS graduate wins congressional art competition

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. REPORTER

Marianas High School graduate Rosanna Luis Camacho struck gold on her first try, becoming the first student from the CNMI to win in the recently held 2009 Congressional Art Competition, her work showing pictures of the local culture, island sites, and World



Rosanna Luis Camacho poses beside her work, which is displayed in the Cannon Tunnel in Washington D.C.

War II ruins.

Her winning piece, "Traditions of the Marianas," is See MHS on Page 4



Ensign Christine Torres, in her U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduation photo.

## Local girl succeeds as **US** Coast Guard officer

HONOLULU, six! Foc'sle, Conn, hold line two!" These are the commands Ensign Christine Dela Cruz Torres gives to crew members on deck aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Jarvis as the ship

makes her approach toward the

See LOCAL on Page 4



Foreign nationals are seen lining up at the Department of Labor's hearing office yesterday as they wait for their chance to be called to turn in their application for request of transfer extension. Despite the \$50 fee imposed in May, hundreds of job-seekers are approaching the department for assistance.



# Russian girl, 11, appeals to President Obama

'Please don't close Saipan from me'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An 11-year-old tourist from

Sakhalin, Russia, has made an emotional appeal to U.S. President Barrack Obama, asking the most powerful man in the nation

for help so she could keep visiting the Commonwealth and her island friends.

Alina Koyay and her family are frequent visitors to Saipan,

See RUSSIAN on Page 4



# Local

## MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

# 'Govt doesn't make one penny with requirement'

**Bv MARK RABAGO** 

mark rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada recently clarified that the CNMI government will not get a cent from the medical insurance being required from foreign students enrolling in the CNMI.

In fact, Ada said, the insurance requirement should have been part of the regulations to start with as it addresses the need to ensure that the health needs of foreign students are

met while they're on island.

"Most folks indicate that when a student becomes ill, they go back to their home country. However, that is not a guarantee that should a student become ill or require medical attention on-island, that payment to health care providers is guaranteed," he said.

Ada argued that Commerce included the medical insurance requirement—or a bond as what happened with the recent issuance of the emergency regulation—to reduce the risk to the

CNMI and ensure that students are able to seek medical attention if they require it.

"This prevents any increase to public health receivables, which ultimately become a burden of the CNMI public as a whole. The CNMI government does not make one penny with this requirement; rather this requirement allows the money to flow into the insurance industry.

"In addition, it saves jobs that could have otherwise been lost due to mounting uncollectable receivables at the Department of Public Health. The government gets nothing other than the guarantee that our public health system will not be strained because these students are covered. In addition, the insurance can be included in the school's tuition and fee structure to ensure the financial impact to the students is minimized," said Ada.

#### Federalization shouldn't change regs

Ada also explained that the fed-

eralization of CNMI immigration at the end of November should not alter the new requirement for medical insurance or a bond to cover the medical expenses of foreign students.

"The issue of federalization shouldn't change the requirement as when we developed the regulation, we used mainland jurisdictions as a model. Keep in mind that the Commerce regulations extend our certifications to the institutions themselves. We are basically saying that the institutions are eligible to receive foreign students. It is purely an immigration function of whether or not the student comes in. In other jurisdictions (Hawaii, Arizona, and California) the state certifies that the intuitions is of sound foundation and financial capacity to receive foreign students," he said.

#### **Kev industry**

Ada admitted that, while "education tourism" is in its infancy, it has the potential to become a key industry for the CNMI, one that would diversify an island economy currently dependent on tourism.

monwealth Development Authority see education as a key industry. The Marianas Visitors Authority has also recognized the contribution that education has to the tourism sector, so much so that there is newly formed Education Committee under MVA. We see this as a clean and stable industry, which is already present in the CNMI," he said.

Ada, however, cautioned everyone involved in the burgeoning industry to take steps to ensure the proper growth of the industry, one that would protect its long-term viability.

"At this point, the approximate value is unknown, but as the regulations and requirement tighten up so that illegitimate operations are forced out...we will be able to identify the true economic value of this industry. We certainly see this industry as a way to diversify our economy. In terms of whether or not this will replace the garment industry, that is unknown. What is known is that we need to diversify our economy to more than just one or two main economic drivers and this is a way to ensure that "Commerce and the Com- we meet that goal," he said.

## Yumul to seek OAG opinion on housing benefits question

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means will seek the legal opinion of the Office of the Attorney General whether the housing benefits being enjoyed by some government employees are legal or not

The move to consult the OAG on the issue was suggested by Public Auditor Michael Pai in response to calls for OPA to look into the issue.

Committee chair Rep. Ray Yumul said yesterday that the House's chief legal counsel has already drafted an opinion on the matter and that he will show it to House members and the OAG.

"We already have an existing law with respect to housing benefits," he pointed out.

Paid had said that OPA will look into the allegations that some government employees are receiving housing benefits, contrary to the law, if the Attorney General will issue an opinion on the legality of benefits. Pai had suggested that Yumul's committee seek an advisory opinion from the OAG on the matter.

Yumul said a lot of graduating residents are coming back from colleges and universities who are more than qualified for

government jobs.

He said it is unfair to returning residents, who are not entitled to housing benefits, if other employees who are from off-island get such benefits.

Yumul said his understanding is that OPA, which is supposed to be an independent body, has the authority to investigate the matter.

P.L. 14-91 established a sunset provision, repealing housing benefits or allowance of \$600 per month for an employee without dependents or \$800 per month for an employee with dependents. The provision stated that regulation in effect on Aug. 1, 2005, should remain in effect for more than two years.

Last March, Yumul raised with OPA concerns that certain off-island hires—expatriates—are being given housing benefits.

The lawmaker said all new government contracts after Oct. 1, 2007, should not have included housing benefits, but that he received information that many contracts executed after Oct. 1, 2007 included such benefits.

In response to the lawmaker's concern, Pai noted that Yumul's request appears to not only seek an audit, but also a legal opinion on whether payouts of housing benefits to off-island hires is allowable under the law.



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# 'CNMI may pay \$3M annually to repay \$200M loan'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

using more than \$3 million an-

# Kagman watershed project seen to increase farmers' productivity

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The ongoing \$4.15 million Kagman Watershed Project is being touted as a means to increase productivity among Saipan farmers by providing flood protection to their farmlands.

Jeffrey Wheaton, state conservation engineer from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, said this significant funding was made

through possible American Recovery Reinvestment and Act funds, as allocated by the USDA and the NRCS.

The project will update aging flood structures, Wheaton control protect and maintain

water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and restore wetlands.

The Kagman construction is considered the largest watershed project in the Pacific Basin.

The project, which began in March this year, covers 3,750 acres consisting of four waterways, two sediment basins, a 7-million gallon reservoir, a 1,000-gallon storage tank and irrigation water delivery

Kagman has the largest and most critical crop farming lands on Saipan, with an average farm size of 2.5 acres and some as

large as 10 acres.

The project will capture rainy season fresh water runoff for irrigation use during the dry season, relieving the farms' demand for so-called municipal water.

At the same time, it will enhance self-sufficiency in the island's food supply, particularly for vegetable crops that are otherwise imported by either air freight or refrigerated containers from a minimum of 1,500 miles away.

It would also reduce agricultural demands for water from the limited sole source aquifer, reduce flooding of the main road and reduce

> the ocean. Wheaton NCRS civil engineer Tim Brasuell

sediment discharge to

are managing the design, contracting and construction inspection and administration of the project.

"We must limit our time invested in secondary activities, or else risk having progress unacceptably slowed. There are clear deadlines attached to the funding that we must meet," Wheaton said following a recent meeting at the project site with partners from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Wheaton said this process must be done in full compliance with technical and administrative requirements.

# Rota senators express alarm over NMHC wait list report Rota senators Felix T. Mendiola

and Paul Manglona have expressed alarm over a report from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. that over 700 families are on its wait list, all seeking government aid for their housing needs.

Mendiola said the report, which Saipan Tribune wrote about on Tuesday, prompted Manglona to call for a meeting yesterday with NMHC corporate director Joshua T. Sasamoto.

"It's very alarming," Mendiola said.

Mendiola said he and Manglona asked Sasamoto as to why there are 700 families on the wait list and what the housing agency is doing to alleviate the problem of affected families. He said they also asked NMHC's five-year action plan for Rota.

The senator said Sasamoto promised to submit to the Senate a copy of NMHC's plan and report with respect to other housing programs.

According to NMHC's action plan scheduled for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, poverty remains the main factor behind the increasing number of local families who need housing assistance.

Mendiola underscored the need for NMHC's plan and report as the House adopted last month a joint resolution on federal funding for housing programs.

The joint resolution seeks to authorize the CNMI, through the governor, to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the action plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application; the Home Investment Partnership Grant Application; and the Emergency Shelter Grant Application.

Rota is expected to benefit from the \$1 million annual CDBG funding this year.

Mendiola said they are gathering all recommendations to come up with appropriate CDBG projects for the island. (Ferdie de la Torre)

The CNMI will probably be nually to pay off the \$200 million the CNMI government is thinking of borrowing to pay the government's debt to the Retirement Fund, according to Rep. Ed Salas.

> "Can the CNMI afford this and not sacrifice some essential services?" Salas asked.

Salas said the government budget already allocates approximately \$7,474,000 for bond repayment.

"How much more will we incur? If \$200 million is borrowed and after interests are compounded, how much do we really owe and how much will be allocated to pay the debt annually?" he asked.

Salas said the government spent \$1.86 million in 2008 to pay off a \$60 million bond.

The House of Representatives approved on Monday an initiative that will add a new section to Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to autho-

rize the government to issue pension obligation bonds. This will allow the government to borrow up to \$200 million. If approved, it will take about 30 years to pay off the debt.

Twelve lawmakers voted for the adoption of the initiative. Salas along with Reps. Tina Sablan and Joseph N. Camacho voted against it.

"Imagine if the employer of a private firm consistently

employer contribution of a 401 retirement plan, will the government pass an initiative to be placed on the ballot for the people to vote and decide

whether to amend the Constitution and allow the government to pay for the millions of dollars that the private employer had failed to pay to the plan?" Salas asked.

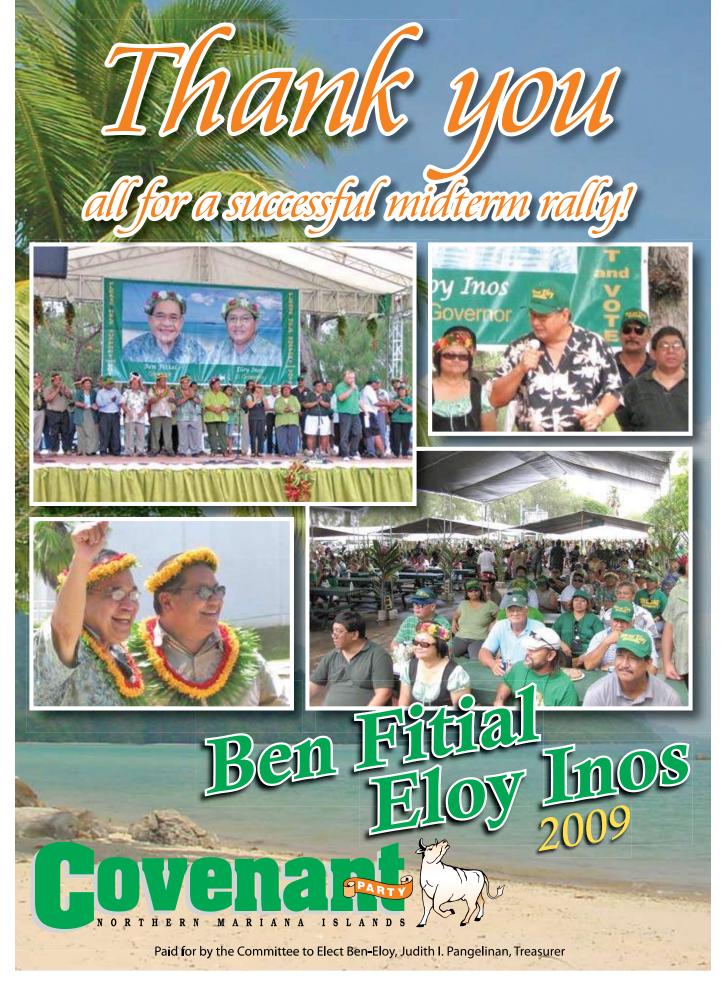
The lawmaker said he seriously doubts whether government employees will be willing to pay for such a debt that they had nothing to do with in the first place.

"I believe that collectively,

failed to remit its share of the the private and public workforce would rather see that any future pension obligation fund will be for capital improvements as allowed by the Constitution," he said.

Salas said it would be easier for people to vote on a pension obligation bond that proposes to improve the Commonwealth Health Center as it benefits the entire Commonwealth.

"And what assurances do the workforce from both the public and private sector have that the government will begin to remit its employer contribution to the Retirement Fund? Just look at the track record of the government, there is no assurances or guarantee," he added.



#### LOCAL

From Page 1

pier at Integrated Support Command Honolulu on July 1, 2009. Torres, who is 25, and the crew of the Jarvis were two days shy of being six months away from their homeport in Honolulu.

On Jan. 3, the Jarvis departed Honolulu for a Central America Counter-Drug Patrol. However, they were diverted to Alaska's Bering Sea for a winter fisheries patrol—Torres's second Alaska patrol since reporting aboard the Jarvis in June 2008.

After a successful patrol and 11 boardings later—including one on the Farwest Leader, a fishing boat made famous by Discovery Channel's "The Deadliest Catch"—the Jarvis headed for San Francisco, California, for a 10-week drydock maintenance period, in which the ship's hull was repaired, equipment replaced and tested, and the ship given a new paint job.

"San Francisco was a welcome change in weather from the Alaska patrol," Torres smiled. "The 50-degree weather was balmy compared to our minus 22 degrees Farenheit in the Bering Sea!"

During the drydock period, Torres got a chance to go onboard the USCGC Sherman, a 378-foot high endurance cutter (the same type of ship as the Jarvis), for the Central America Counter-Drug patrol, which the Jarvis never got to complete.

While onboard the Sherman, Torres qualified as an Underway Officer of the Deck, the most significant qualification in a junior officer's career.

Officers of the Deck, OOD's, are directly responsible to the ship's captain for the safe navigation of the ship and the safety of the crew. OOD's must display an aptitude for shiphandling, engineering, and navigation during the course of their hands-on studies aboard their ships, which culminate in sitting

Saipan Tribune learned this yester-

day after seeing hundreds of applicants

lining up at the department's hearing

As early as 9am yesterday, over a

hundred individuals were seen being

accommodated at the office—all want-

ing to renew their transfer extension.

Each one was clutching a numbered

Celso Agpawan, 56, said he will stay

on the line even if it takes him until the

end of the day to make sure he submits

Agpawan has been on island for 21

He admitted that yesterday was his

"It's truly hard to find a job nowa-

days...but I will still try my best to find

one. This is why I keep on applying

for transfer extension. This is my third

time and hopefully, I can get a job this

Since the beginning of his labor case

some five years ago, Agpawan said he

has been holding a temporary worker

permit that he keeps renewing while

waiting for his case to be resolved.

time." he told Saipan Tribune.

third time to seek Labor's consideration.

years and has a labor case that has been

his application to the hearing office.

pending for five years now.

tag indicating their place in the line.

**JOBLESS** 

From Page 1

for an oral board in front of the ship's captain, navigator, engineer officer, executive officer, and weapons officer. When the board panel feels confident the junior officer will succeed, the officer is given their qualification letter.

"During the first three weeks of being on the Sherman, we floated around, not catching any drug boats. The night after I received my qualification letter at the end of the third week, we had a drug bust-and then every night after something big happened!" Torres recalled.

The Sherman trip ended up a success for Torres.

In addition to being added to the short list of qualified Underway OOD's, Torres and the Sherman rescued two men whose sailboat sank 200 miles off the coast of Costa Rica, boarded several drug boats and seized millions of dollars worth of cocaine bound for the United States, seized a boat carrying Bangladeshi aliens off the coast of Panama, and helped navigate the Sherman to some amazing places for the ship's R&R.

"One weekend we were in Costa Rica, the next weekend we were in El Salvador, and I ended my trip on the Sherman in Panama City, Panama. I'm forever grateful to the Coast Guard for the opportunity to see these beautiful countries," Torres said.

At first glance, Torres looks like any island girl-long brown hair, tanned skin, and a big smile. But looks can be deceiving. Torres is the Combat Information Center officer aboard the Jarvis, who has a team of 14 enlisted operations specialists working for her. Together, they collect and use intelligence to determine operations during patrols, distribute and destroy classified material, and maintain the communications systems that *Jarvis* needs to work with other vessels during patrols.

Torres is responsible for much of the intelligence information the ship's captain is briefed on-and uses to make decisions.

"The hours are long, the job gets tedious at times, but when you're pulling dozens of bails of cocaine out of the water, you feel like you have the best job in the world!" Torres said.

Torres graduated in May 2008 from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, with a bachelor's degree in Government, and received her officer's commission on the same day. Prior to the Academy, Torres was enlisted as a Fireman aboard the USCGC Mellon in Seattle, Washington from 2002-2003. She was accepted to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island for a year before reporting to the Academy in June 2004.

She was the first woman from the CNMI to graduate from any of the U.S. Service Academies. The other four are: U.S. Military Academy (West Point, NY), U.S. Air Force academy (Colorado Springs, CO), U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD), and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kingspoint, NY). Those who attend the five Service Academies receive a fully-paid college education, complete with room, board, medical and dental benefits, and a monthly stipend. Graduates receive a bachelor's degree in the major of their choosing, and their commission as an officer in their respective service.

When asked why she wanted to become an officer in the Coast Guard, Torres said: "I like a challenge. While most people think to enlist in the service, which I also did, I never lost sight of my goal to reach higher and tackle the Academy. Also, the Coast Guard is such a small service (38,000 active duty), that regardless of your rank, you are all working together to accomplish the mission. I may be the qualified OOD on the Bridge and solely responsible to the captain for the ship's safe navigation, but on my watch I have enlisted quartermasters, helmsmen, lookouts, boatswain's mates, engineers, all helping me in this very significant task."

up to 45 days.

Agpawan said the new fee just added

"I had to borrow money from a friend just to make sure I can pay the \$50 fee for my new application. Though it's hard, I have no choice...because I want to find a job," he said, adding that he's also concerned about what will happen after the expiration of his 30-45 days transfer extension in November.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is expected to take over the local immigration system on Nov. 28.

Bella Quijano, 40, was also trying her luck yesterday. She is a former house help and has been looking for a job since November last year. She was earlier given a chance to transfer in November, February, April, and May.

Like Agpawan, she said she's also finding it hard to come up with the \$50

amount for me. I just pray that I could find a job after this so I don't need to pay for another \$50 when the 45-day expires," she said.

frustration upon finding out that she needs to pay for her new application. Like the first two applicants, she has been renewing her request for transfer extension several times free of charge. She became unemployed in November last year and has been applying for jobs

Other individuals interviewed by Saipan Tribune expressed almost the

same frustrations and stories—both on the \$50 fee charge and the difficulty of

"All companies and agencies I approached...prefer local applicants and there's nothing I can do," one of them

## 'Case judged on individual

According to Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat, the fee collected to process transfer extensions is set by regulations and cover the administrative costs involved.

She said it is the department's hearing officer who determines the time allowed for an extension request.

"The time within which to transfer is considered by a hearing officer on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, the time is very short—perhaps 10 days because that is what is needed to get the paperwork finished with respect to the foreign worker's transfer job," she explained.

Kaipat added that every job is offered to U.S. citizens, so the foreign worker sometimes does not know until the very end of the transfer period whether the papers can be processed or not.

In some cases, she said, the time is a little longer than 30 days because the worker has an unpaid settlement or a bond claim or the worker's employer is temporarily offisland or for other reasons that the hearing officer finds sufficient.

"As I said, each case is judged on its individual merit," Kaipat added.

As for the best part of being in the Coast Guard, Torres immediately said, "The travel. I have to pinch myself sometimes because I can't believe I'm getting paid to see the world. I've drunk Guiness beer in Ireland, and drunk sakau in Pohnpei. I've driven through 15-foot seas in Alaska's Bering Sea, and walked along the beaches of El Salvador and Costa Rica. All these

experiences are truly a blessing."

Torres graduated from Mount Carmel School with honors in 2002. She is the daughter of Antonio T. and Consolacion Dela Cruz Torres, of Capital Hill, Saipan. She has one sister, Ana Maria, 10. Torres is engaged to Sylvan O. Igisomar, director of Fish & Wildlife, and the two are planning a Summer 2010 wedding. (USCG)

#### RUSSIAN

From Page 1

spending some months each year to enjoy Saipan's pristine beauty and get together with old friends and acquaintances. In those visits, Alina has built a strong friendship with some local chil-

"I love Saipan very much! I have lots of friends that live on Saipan. They have asked me over and over to come for new year...[but] my mom says that after November, we will not be able to come back...even for the new year," Alina told Obama in her letter.

She expressed dismay at hearing the sad news.

"This makes me upset because all my friends on Saipan will miss me... and I miss them. The only way for us to be able to visit Saipan again will be to get a U.S. visa. Where I live, we don't have a place to get U.S. visa...so my mom says we will never be able to come back to Saipan," the young tourist's letter reads.

Alina addded: "I ask you, one thing: Don't close Saipan from me. Saipan is the only place where I can relax, play with friends, and practice English...'

She ends her letter with the plea: "Please do something to help."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will take over the local immigration system on Nov. 28. Under federal rules, only those with U.S. visas will be able to enter the CNMI. The local government is asking DHS to include China and Russia in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver.

Oleg Chentsov, the Russian marketing manager at Saipan World Resort, said that Alina's family used to stay in the hotel.

He said these "regular" visitors were on island last month and just departed

last week—"with sadness in their heart that they can't come back" starting in November when the transition to federalization begins.

"For children who don't have so much understanding on issues like federalization, their reaction is normal because they enjoy their stay with their friends," he told Saipan *Tribune* yesterday.

Chentsov described Alina's letter as a unique appeal to the U.S. government regarding a very important issue for the Commonwealth.

"That brief letter of Alina, I hope, would create awareness to U.S. officials. It [letter] expresses our concern from the point of view of children, who are our future!" he said.

Due to similar concerns about federalization, Russian arrivals at the Saipan World Resort dropped by 25 percent last month and is expected to continue declining in the next few months, Chentsov said.

He said agents are now finding it difficult to promote the CNMI in destinations like Russia.

"Many of them changed their minds...because of federalization issue," he added.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio appealed to U.S. officials to consider the children's

"The letter from Alina came to the MVA unsolicited. She has been to the CNMI twice now and during those times developed a close relationship with some of our local residents. We hope that they will develop a deeper friendship through her continued visit to the CNMI. We sincerely hope the U.S. will reconsider and include Russia among the allowable countries in the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program scheduled to take effect Nov. 28, 2009," he said.

#### MHS

From Page 1

now displayed at the Cannon Tunnel in Washington D.C. It was the first time she has ever participated in an art con-

This 18-year-old daughter of Antonio and Trinidad Camacho said it was her yearbook class teacher, Wesley Foster, who introduced her to the contest.

"I was never really into arts until this year. I got so interested in photography and photo editing that I decided to use this technique for my entry," she said.

It was the first time the Northern Marianas was included in the annual competition.

She said she immediately thought about featuring the beautiful sights of the Marianas: Bird Island, coconut trees, Carolinian cultural dancers, Chamorro cultural attire, World War II tanks, and the ubiquitous flame trees.

The win not only surprised her friends and her proud family but also herself. "I was completely shocked when I found out I won the contest because I was just a rookie at the photo editing technique," Camacho recalled.

She said she played around with the software and stuck with what looked good to her.

It also paid off that she had classmates and a teacher who were willing to lend some of their ideas.

"I also paid attention to some of the suggestions from my classmates and my teacher, and I guess what looked good to them looked good to the judges," she said.

During her trip to Washington D.C., Camacho visited Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan (Ind-MP) at his office. She was escorted by her aunt, Marcia B. Camacho.

"Congressman Sablan told me that he was impressed with my work and that this was the very first time that the Northern Marianas was part of this program, so it is an honor to have my work tell what our islands are all about," she said.

While she was savoring her win, Camacho participated in a workshop and the awards ceremony with the other student winners from the other states.

"It felt wonderful to see my work displayed on the wall of the U.S. Capitol's tunnel. Now people will be aware of our islands and its people and what they have to offer," she said.

#### Added burden

On May 1, 2009, the Labor Department imposed a \$50 fee for each transfer extension request, which may be granted

to his already "burdened" mind.

for her application.

"I have no work...and \$50 is a big

Josephina Ignacio, 53, expressed but was unsuccessful.

finding jobs on island.

Lt. John Peterson, the new Marine Safety Detachment Supervisor for Saipan and Tinian, talks about some of his plans at the U.S. Coast Guard office yesterday.

# **New USCG supervisor takes over**

Lt. John Peterson, the new Marine Safety Detachment supervisor for Saipan and Tinian, says his main goal is to make sure that cooperation in the maritime industry is maintained.

Peterson began his twoyear tour of duty on July 6. He replaced Julie Y. Bethke, who had just ended her two-year tour of duty. The turnover ceremony was held July 8.

He said he's still familiarizing himself with the area and likes the islands a lot.

"It's my first time to come here. It was my number one choice of location and I'm very happy I've started with the job," he said.

Peterson was the Chief of Inspections in his previous unit at the USCG Sector Sault in Sainte Marie, Michigan.

The 30-year-old Peterson has a total Coast Guard service of seven years prior to

**Please** 

his Saipan post.

"I think that the continuing challenge we always have is making sure we maintain cooperation with the maritime industry and communication with the local port and government partners," he said.

Peterson said the Coast Guard's basic mission is to maintain peace and safety and ensure that small passenger vessels here operate according to rules and regulations.

"I'm looking forward to working closely with the local ports authorities. We are here to ensure that their needs are met through open communication," Peterson said.

These include pollution response initiatives, local planning and recruitment of local people to the Coast Guard.

"We can help anyone interested to join us," he said. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

# Alien worker awarded \$21K reimbursement for expenses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Department of Labor has ruled in favor of a nonresident worker on Rota who had complained that her employer refused to reimburse the medical expenses she incurred for offisland treatment.

Imee T. Tupaz-Taimanao, an employee of Saipan Employment Agency & Services Inc., was awarded a total of \$21,685.16 for medical reimbursement. Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered the company to pay her within 20 days.

Tupaz-Taimanao was hired as the company's nurse in 2004. In

April last year, she developed severe abdominal pain and it was determined that she needed medical treatment off-island.

Saipan Employment Agency & Services Inc. was notified about Tupaz-Taimanao's condition but it failed to comply with the request made by the employee and the Rota Health Center's Dr. François Claassens.

After getting no definite response to her request, Tupaz-Taimanao traveled to the Philippines for treatment that lasted from May through July 2008. She had four surgeries in three different hospitals in order to correct a life-threatening condition.

The treatment, which in-

volved weeks of hospitalization, diagnostic procedures and CT scans, surgery, and outpatient care, was performed at three hospitals in Manila.

She paid for the treatment using her own funds and through personal loans: \$659 to Jose R. Reves Medical Center; \$12,961 to St. Luke's Medical Center; and \$8,064 to the Medical City Hospital. Her total medical expenses reached \$21,685.

After being released from the hospital, Tupaz-Taimanao returned to Rota to resume work with SEAS. She submitted to the company all needed documents for reimbursement but this was not acted on until she decided to

The hearing officer said that failure to pay for medical reimbursements will result in barring the employer from hiring, renewing, and employing nonresident workers.

"If SEAS fails to pay the reimbursement award by the due date, SEAS shall be barred and disqualified from hiring, renewing or employing foreign national workers in the Commonwealth," Cody said.

A fine of \$25 per day was also imposed if the award is not given on time.

SEAS was represented in the case by its president, Hen-



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#### FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE **Hocog, Vincent Castro** We are a **Movement** for **Innovation** and **Positive** Change! We respect our traditions, and are willing to adapt to ever-changing circumstances. We are willing to go through adversity for the sake of **Positive** and Meaningful Change! Our reality in Rota; we need positive and progressive Changes and Change we must! I pledge to you, my independence, my ability to think positively, innovative approach to problem-solving and my undying desire to help make a difference for the people of Rota! These, my fellow voters are the basic foundations which move, motivate and push me to seek your vote of confidence for a seat in the 13th Municipal Council for Rota. 13th Rota Municipal Council

# **Senate assigns half of Tinian public lands for homesteads**

seeks to designate at least 50 percent of available public land on Tinian for homesteads.

In an interview vesterday, Senate Floor Leader Jude U. Hofschneider said the Senate Bill 16-58 he introduced was unanimously passed on final reading during their Thursday session.

Hofschneider said he asked the House of Representatives to support the bill as it is "very important" to improving people's lives on Tinian.

homestead program should be at the forefront of priorities among government leaders. "In passing land leases for development, I think there should be a balance of socio-economic development and homesteading," he said.

Tinian's public land is limited as the U.S. Department of Defense leases approximately two thirds of the vacant public land on the island. Hofschneider said the lease of such a large portion has severely hindered the homestead program

"Allocating a portion of public lands on Tinian for current and future homestead development is in the best interest of Tinian residents who are of Northern Marianas descent," he said.

Under the legislation, the Department of Public Lands will be tasked to inventory all public lands on the island that are vacant and undeveloped. DPL is given no later than Dec. 31, 2009, to complete the inventory. (Ferdie dela Torre)

# 28 Guangzhou media reps tour NMI

Twenty-eight media outlet rep- II historic ruins, and numerous ward to welcoming more visiresentatives from Guangzhou, China recently took a familiarization tour of the Northern Mariana Islands to discover what has been drawing Chinese visitors to this beach resort destination.

Television, radio, newspaper, magazine and website reps of 20 media outlets visited Saipan and Tinian on July 3-7, 2009, arriving aboard newly restored direct charter flights from Guangzhou. Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Micronesia's only world-class casino, hosted the tour group at a dinner held the first evening of their stay. In addition to gaming at the casino, the group took in the island's scenic sites, which include prehistoric limestone monoliths called taga stones, World War

white-sand beaches.

The group also toured the main island of Saipan, where they took a jungle tour, explored the nightlife of the main tourist district of Garapan, and visited numerous historic and scenic sites. A highlight of the Saipan tour was a quick cruise to the snorkeling shores of Managaha island inside Saipan's lagoon. Their final evening on Saipan was spent enjoying a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Stars & Stripes, complete with island barbecue fare and live cultural dances.

"The resumption of charter flights from Guangzhou is good news for visitors who have heard about our islands and have been waiting for a convenient time to visit," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We look for-

tors from the Guangzhou region in the coming months."

Charters flights to the Northern Marianas are scheduled to run through Sept. 30, 3009, departing Guangzhou on Mondays and Fridays.

The participating media were China Daily, Chongxing Women Daily, Chongxing Morning Post, Chongxing Commercial Post. Guangxi Today News, Guangxi TV, Guangxi Daily, Naning Evening Post, Kunming Spring City Evening, Kunming Metropolitan Post, Kunming Fuel Station Magazine, Kunan TV, Kunming 102.8 Radio, Yunan Message Post, Yunan Oversea Travel Ltd., Sohu.com Tourist, Southern Newspaper, Nanqing China Travel, Yannan Oversea Travel, and Guangzhou Transportation Radio. (PR-MVA)

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

#### Proposed amendment to the official Saipan Zoning Map

The public is invited to join and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the proposed amendments (rezones) to the official Saipan Zoning Map #06 - Tanapag Village.

Date: July 23, 2009, Thursday

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Tanapag Social Hall (across from the Church)

Comments on the proposed rezone may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 24, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

1.) Star Marianas Inc. (Star Waters) 2.) Health Trends

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the following applications:

Conditional Use Application #2009-2026 -Star Water Container Storage Lot# 1915-5

Zoning Permit Application #2009-2117--Health Trends (Paganville) Lot# 018 D 53/54

Date: July 24, 2009, Friday

Time:

Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Place:

Building, Saipan.

Above applications may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 27, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barret, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BANK OF GUAM,

NOTICE OF SALE

MANASSES S. BORJA, Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Order Following Status Conference and Order to Auction Real Property, dated July 6, 2009, issued by The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Manasses S. Borja's reversionary interest in Lot 099 E 1, located in Talofofo, Saipan, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on ter-conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public

**Inspection of Property.** The property described as Lot 99 E 01, (formerly known as AH 268) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 099 E 01, the original of which was recorded 19 Dec 89 as Document No. 89-4295 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan. It may be viewed and inspected one day prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Schedule of inspection can be made before July 22, 2009, by calling O' Connor Berman Dotts & Banes with Telephone No. (670) 234-5684 and Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

A) Rights and duties of Auctioneer, Consistent with the laws, of the Common-wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale withou notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or

all bids for any reason.

B) <u>Bids.</u> Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes The bidder assumes all risk. Any person including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such

the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted as advance bid. C) <u>Payment</u>. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. D) <u>Change of Terms and Conditions</u>. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commence ment thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding or all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated, this 7th of July, 2009

/s/ O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Court-Appointed Auctionee

## Women finding swimming pool an effective way to combat obesity

An expanding group of women in the CNMI has found the swimming pool an effective way of combating obesity.

The women are engaged in an aqua-fit exercise program under the tutelage of Pam Carhill, head of the physical therapy department of the Commonwealth Health Center.

Carhill said they have about 70 members on Saipan since they started in 2007. They have also eight members on Rota. They are ready to start on Tinian.

Their youngest member is 11

Theprogram, called Hinemlo'ta (healing ourselves), will soon be accepting men.

Carhill, who was the guest speaker in Tuesday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, said they will have their third anniversary on July 23.

The aqua-fir exercise is open to all ages who are "big" and who experience pain during exercise.

Carhill said these people could lose weight significantly without having to feel pain and that they can be active by reducing the risk of diabetes and obesity.

She said doing one's exercise in the water can be more beneficial than walking along the beach because it involves less pains.

"We have the full support of the Diabetes Coalition. We have volunteer instructors helping us. And we were able to get donation from the Palms Resort and Coral Ocean Point for the use of their pool," she said. The daily exercises are scheduled at 5pm-6 pm.

Aqua Resort and Fiesta Resort and Spa also gave them big discounts.

To know more about the program, contact Carhill at swimsaipan@yahoo.com.

Carhill said they will be preparing some kind of a diary project that would be translated into the Chamorro language. She explained that this would be a food diary for the members. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

#### MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, July 17, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established: 

| PRELIMINARIES | PRELIMINARIES

- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Minutes
- CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- - Investment Consultant Reports
    - Performance Reports June 2009 Asset Allocation Study - Part 1
  - Loan Administrator Reports Board Consultant Reports
- ETI Response Letters
- OLD BUSINESS
- By-laws Review & Amendments
- NEW BUSINESS
- Investment Basics Course/AIF
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** 
  - At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

> /s/ Viannev B. Hocog Chairman, Board of Trustees



ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC) Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEET-**ING FOR 17, JULY 2009.** 

DATE: Friday, 17 July 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Rota Casino Gaming

> **Commission's Office AGENDA**

Call to Order II. Roll Call III. Adoption of Agenda IV. **Adoption of Minutes** 

Chairman's Report VI. **Old Business** None VII. **New Business** - Staffing Needs VIII. Miscellaneous

Adjournment

\*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao Chairman

IX.

17, July 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009 **7** 



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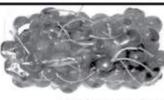
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#### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

## Feedback sought on Korean language program

The Korean Cultural Center's Korean Language School is providing a Korean language program at NMC as a program of CDI from June 19 to July 31. We want to get some comments and advice from the public for the next session. The new session will be a basic Korean language program. Don't hesitate and send your free opinions and answers to the following questions. (1) What time is the best time for you to join the NMC Korean language program? (2) What day do you think is good? (3) What content do you want to learn in Korean language? Contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail korean2221@gmail.com. (PR)

## Important info about NMC Fall semester

Important information about the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2009 Semester has been posted to the college's website at www.nmcnet.edu. The Fall 2009 Class Schedule, placement test dates, registration dates, and other information can be accessed now. Log on to NMC's website or call Manny Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1528 for more details. (NMC)

# Court asked to revoke Pelisamen's release

**By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.** n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

William Kaipat has sought the help of the U.S. Attorney's Office because he felt threatened and could only feel safe if his brother, Luis Pelisamen, the former Kaipat estate administrator, is back in detention.

Because of this, U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler filed a motion on July 10 asking the U.S. District Court in the CNMI to revoke the pre-sentence release of Pelisamen and requesting a prompt reply.

In his motion, Schuler noted that Kaipat called the U.S. Attorney's office on July 1 to inform them that he feels threatened by the defendant.

Schuler said that at the very least Kaipat's livelihood and well-being are threatened.

Schuler said "the defendant wants revenge, and as a result poses a danger to the safety of others and the community."

Reportedly, Pelisamen met with Kaipat's supervisors in an attempt to have Kaipat fired from his job at the Food Stamp Office based on allegations.

Pelisamen allegedly told the office that he waited a full year to come forward with the allegations against Kaipat because he was in jail.

Schuler said the defendant lied to Kaipat's supervisors because not only was he not in jail for the past year, Kaipat's supervisors found that the allegations against Kaipat were unfounded.

In his motion, Schuler said Pelisamen was found guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, money laundering conspiracy, and money laundering on June 22, 2009.

He said the government did not ask for detention prior to sentencing but instead recommended that the defendant be released under the same pre-trial conditions.

He said that, while the defendant remains on release, there are no set conditions that will reasonably assure Kaipat and the rest of his family that they are safe from the defendant's desire for revenge.

"There must be clear and convincing evidence that the defendant will not be a danger to the safety of others while released, and danger includes pecuniary harm," he said.



#### **July 16, 1999**

#### 21 years for William Sablan

William C. Sablan, who led the 14-hour hostage drama at Division of Corrections in Susupe last March, was sentenced yesterday to 21 years in prison. Sablan's sentencing came after he pleaded guilty on April 13 to federal charges of hostage-taking, possession of firearm and conspiracy to transport a firearm into the jail. US District Court Judge Alex Munson gave Sablan the 21-year prison term, despite the defendant's plea for a fewer years of punishment. Sablan's lawyer, Bruce Berline, pressed for 18 years to allow his client to "enjoy the later years of his life with his family."

## AGO slammed for delay in Koblerville housing project

The Senate yesterday lashed out at the Attorney General's Office for allegedly holding up approval on the contract of the Koblerville expansion project that has been awarded to Telesource more than three months ago. A resolution offered by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez is asking the AGO and the Office of Procurement and Supply to hasten review of the agreement with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation on the \$7 million project. It would also throw support behind the initial request for proposal conducted by the government housing agency early this year and junk a plan by AGO to send the whole project again on an entirely different bidding process.

#### **July 16, 2001**

#### **Arrivals slump 7.7 percent**

Tourist arrivals in the Northern Marianas slumped 7.7 percent to 40,663 visitors last month from June 2000's 44,037, government reports disclosed. Tourism officials explained the number of visitors to the islands was pulled down by the suspension of direct flights between Taiwan and Saipan. The CNMI witnessed an 84 percent decline in travelers from Taiwan mainly due to the termination of Mandarin Airline's nonstop service to the island, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

## **EPA** backs call against land crab consumption

Toxicologists detected the highest levels of PCB in at least three crab samples taken from the village's Homestead 2 Beach Park site and Lower Base Cemetery area. But a final report prepared by the EPA has labeled these results as low. The experts surveyed 100 Tanapag land crabs for PCB December last year as part of cleanup efforts. US Environmental Protection Agency On-scene Coordinator Michelle Rogow disclosed that the highest levels detected were registered at .96, .25 and .077 parts per million, still way below the US Food and Drug Administration's standards.

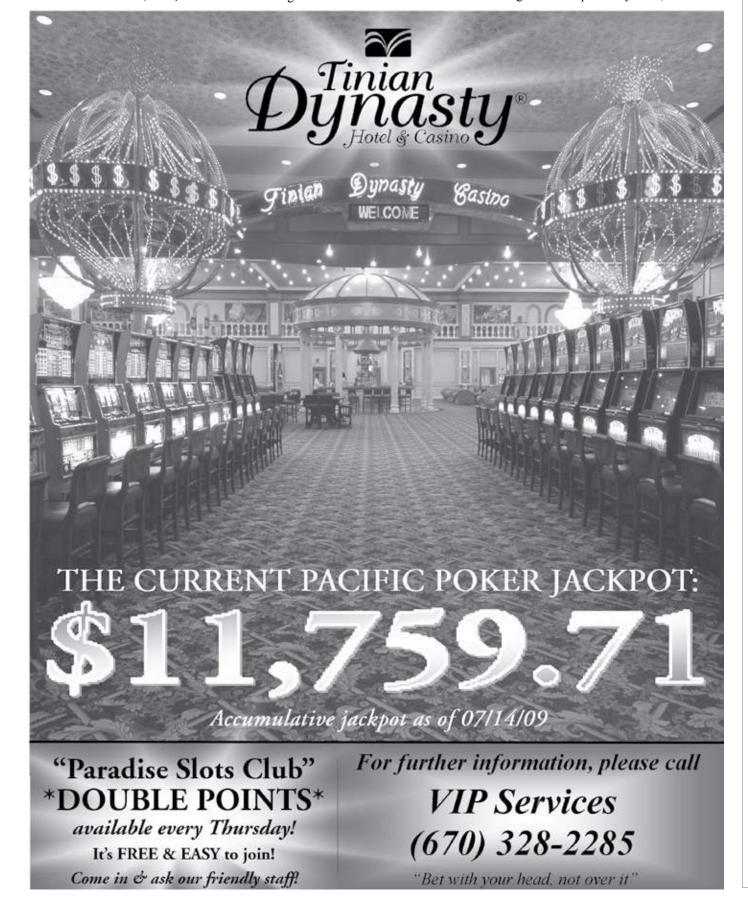
#### **July 16, 2002**

#### Nevada: We don't want your PCB

The PCBs extracted from the soil in Tanapag are due to arrive in Nevada today for disposal but Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn is opposing the move and has vowed to block its entry into the Silver State. Although he sympathizes with Guinn, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he will also oppose any move to bring these PCBs back into the Commonwealth and vowed to personally go down to the Saipan dock to block its return. Babauta said yesterday that the Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Coordinator, John McCaroll, has informed the Office of the Governor Sunday that the first shipment of the PCB extracted from Tanapag is arriving in Nevada Monday (today in local time). The PCB filter cakes are inside two shipping containers.

## 'Safeguards in place for use of treated soil as dump cover'

The Division of Environmental Quality confirmed that it allowed the Department of Public Works to use treated soil from the PCB treatment site in Tanapag as daily cover for the Puerto Rico dumpsite, but the agency clarified it also imposed conditions to protect the Saipan Lagoon from possible contamination. DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. stressed this, even as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released an opinion saying that treated soil is suitable as daily cover for the garbage site. Treated soil used as daily cover may not be placed in a location that may allow erosion that would deposit the soil into the lagoon. Use of the soil may only occur in inland, depressed areas of the dump, where surface flow of runoff into the lagoon is improbable, Castro said.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009 **9** 

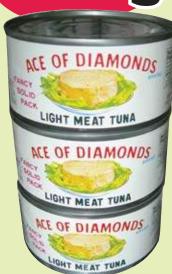
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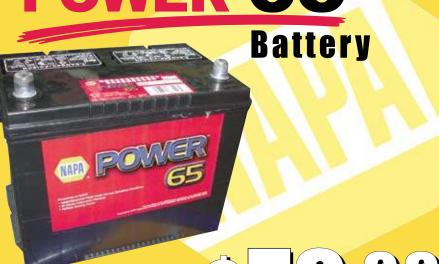
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# **Opinion**



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#### **EDITORIAL**

# A way out in Honduras

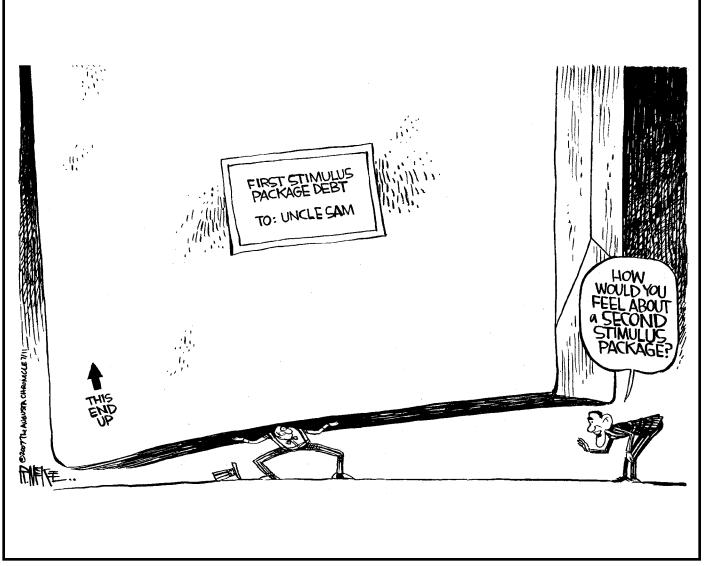
e facto, interim or congressionally installed -- no matter the qualifier -- Roberto Micheletti is not the president of Honduras. Manuel Zelaya is, and like him or not, the man who was ousted in a military-civilian coup on June 28 should be returned to Tegucigalpa to finish the last months of his term. On this point, the United Nations, the Organization of American States, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and President Obama are agreed. The question is how to get him there against implacable opposition from the political elites.

The Obama administration was right to let Latin America take the lead in resolving the Honduran crisis, first through the OAS and, after Zelaya's failed attempt to return home, through the mediation efforts of Costa Rica's Nobel Peace Prize-winning president, Oscar Arias. But the talks broke up after two days of impasse, and the clock is ticking. Chavez has expressed doubts about the Arias negotiations, and Zelaya is threatening another return -- a move that could put his life and others' at risk. It's time the United States put more superpower pressure on the Honduran establishment.

Obama has stated clearly that tossing Zelaya out of the country by military force was illegal, and the United States has put a "pause" on tens of millions of dollars in aid. Venezuela has cut oil shipments, and the OAS has suspended Honduras, but none of that has ended the standoff. Micheletti and company seem to believe that if they can shoulder the hardships until November elections, all will be forgiven. Not so. The Obama administration needs to make it clear now that elections held under those conditions will not be regarded as legitimate and that such a plan would only prolong Honduras' troubles. Meanwhile, the U.S. should consider imposing sanctions on individuals involved with the coup, such as canceling visas and freezing bank accounts. It could also follow the European Union and recall the U.S. ambassador.

Negotiations are the only solution, and we hope that all of Latin America will throw its support behind Arias to return Zelaya to the presidency. Zelaya should give up on his proposed referendum to tamper with the constitution and on the idea of extending presidential term limits, in exchange for Micheletti leaving office. Both sides, it seems, are going to need guarantees of amnesty. If that's the cost of a negotiated solution, so be it. Failure to return to constitutional order would send a signal to the rest of Latin America that once again political problems can be solved with an old-style coup. And for Honduras, it would mean protracted social conflict, the erosion of the legitimacy of government institutions and, quite possibly, demand for a constitutional assembly of the sort the elites had hoped to stave off with a coup.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



# Fixing immigration

By JEB BUSH, THOMAS F. MCLARTY III and EDWARD ALDEN SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

ur immigration system has been broken for too long, and the costs of that failure are growing. Getting immigration policy right is fundamental to our national interests—our economic vitality, our diplomacy and our national security.

In the report of the bipartisan Council on Foreign Relations' Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy released last week, we lay out what is at stake for the U.S. President Barack Obama has made it clear that reform is one of his top priorities, and that is an encouraging and welcome signal.

Immigration has long been America's secret weapon. The U.S. has attracted an inordinate share of talented and hardworking immigrants, who are enticed here by the world's best universities, the most innovative companies, a vibrant labor market and a welcoming culture. Many leaders in allied nations were educated in the U.S., a diplomatic asset that no other country can match. And the contributions of immigrants—40 percent of the science and engineering PhDs in the U.S. are foreign-born, for example—have helped maintain the scientific and technological leadership that is the foundation of our national security.

But the U.S. has been making life much tougher for many immigrants. Long processing delays and arbitrary quota backlogs keep out many would-be immigrants, or leave them in an uncertain temporary status for years. Background and other security checks are taking far too long in many cases. Other countries are taking advantage of these mistakes, competing for immigrants by opening their universities to foreign students and providing a faster track to permanent residency and citizenship.

The persistent problem of illegal immigration has also soured many Americans on the benefits of an open system. The presence of nearly 12 million illegal immigrants has diminished respect for the law, weakened labor rights, strained our relations with Mexico and other nations and unfairly burdened public education and social services in many states.

In a post-9/11 world in which the U.S. must be able to thwart terrorist plots by extremists attempting to come here from abroad, illegal migration also creates an unacceptable security risk. Illegal immigration reflects both the inadequacies in our enforcement regime and the failure to provide enough legal channels to meet, under normal economic circumstances, the demands of the U.S. labor market.

Congress and the Obama administration should move ahead on three fronts: reform the legal immigration system so that it responds more adroitly to labor market needs and enhances U.S. competitiveness; restore the integrity of immigration laws through more effective enforcement, especially at the workplace; and offer a fair and orderly way to allow many of those currently living here illegally to earn the right to remain legally.

There are two objections to pushing ahead with such measures now. First, with a deep recession and unemployment nearing 10 percent, encouraging more immigration seems to make little sense at the moment. That is why the U.S. needs a more flexible system that is responsive to changes in the economy. Family reunification remains a basic and valuable goal, but employment-based immigration and temporary-worker programs should be allowed to fluctuate with economic cycles, rather than being subject to rigid quotas. That means numbers should go up when the economy grows but fall during recessions.

Second, some argue that this formula repeats the mistake of the 1986 reform law, which did nothing to stop illegal immigration. But the circumstances now are very different. In 1990, the U.S. had fewer than 3,000 Border Patrol agents. Today, there are almost 20,000 agents, a near doubling in the last four years alone. The Department of Homeland Security is also investing heavily in surveillance and other technologies to increase control over the borders.

Electronic verification—which did not exist in the 1990s—will soon allow for quick and accurate verification that an employee is authorized to work here. Our task force recommends that employers who use these systems faithfully be rewarded, while companies that persist in hiring illegal immigrants should face tougher sanctions, including criminal penalties and the possibility of civil actions. This will substantially reduce the ability of illegal immigrants to find work in the U.S.

In part because of such measures, illegal immigration to the U.S. has fallen to its lowest levels since the mid-1970s. When the economy recovers, those numbers are likely to rise. But Congress and the administration have an opportunity now to develop and put in place an immigration strategy for the recovery by offering new legal paths for immigration and temporary work, along with tough enforcement of the law.

We urge Congress not to keep reprising the stale debates over enforcement-first versus comprehensive reform. U.S. national interests will not be served unless both are priorities. Our group, which includes Democrats and Republicans, shows that a consensus is possible. It's time to get on with the job.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former White House Chief of Staff Thomas F. McLarty III are co-chairmen and Edward Alden is director of a Council on Foreign Relations-sponsored Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are strictly active that are strictly as the sail of the contributor. of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Ethics tests

thics can be defined as the moral standards that govern appropriate conduct. It is a system of values or principles that allows one to determine what is accepted as right or wrong in a group or society. Basically, ethical people make right choices. Individuals who severely violate ethical standards are usually cast out of society or separated from the community by being placed in prison. Minor ethical violations create distrust and suspicion. It can affect the reputation and therefore impact the trust level that people have when dealing with an unethical person or organization.

One of my frustrations when teaching the concept of ethics in my business classes is that students can define it, understand it conceptually, and even give the right answers on a test, but it still may not become a part of their psyche so that they will treat others in a morally responsible manner. Therefore I sometimes place people in situations that test their ethical standards and reveal their true nature. One way to judge the ethics of someone else is to see what they will do when they think no one is watching, or they think they can get away with unethical behavior. I have discovered from experience that when people feel they won't be held accountable or they think no one will know what they did, most will sadly try to get away with unethical behavior

Do you act differently when you know others are watching your actions, or are your actions consistent? Do you subscribe to situational ethics, where you can rationalize your actions based on varying circumstances? Let's look at various ways you can examine your actions, words, and choices in any situation so you can determine your ethical standards. These "tests" are adapted from a list originated by Darrin Clement. I've listed them in a

countdown order and added questions for you to consider. Before you go through the list, think of a situation where you were faced with an ethical dilemma, and consider how you responded as you ask these questions.

Here are questions from the Ten Ethics Tests you can ask before you undertake a business strategy, marketing tactic, or when you plan to take any action in your professional or personal life:

- #10. The **Conscience Test**: Will I feel guilty if I do this? Does this go against my conscience? Could I look at myself in the mirror and feel good about what I did?
- #9. The **Fairness Test**: Is this fair to everyone involved? If not, who might be affected and in what manner? Everyone wants to be treated fairly, and a sense of fairness can encourage you to do the right thing.
- #8. The **Truth Test** asks these questions: Do I speak only the truth? Will this action represent the whole truth, without any rationalization? Could I state this in a court of law without committing perjury?
- #7. The **Religion Test**: Does this go against the basic beliefs of my religion? Will I break any commandments or doctrine if I do this?
- #6. The **Newspaper Test**: How would I feel if my actions made front-page news in the local newspaper? Would I want everyone reading about the details of what I said and did?
- #5. The **Parent Test**: How would my parents feel if they found out about what I did or plan to do? A variation of this is: Would Mom or Dad be embarrassed if they had to explain my actions to their friends?
  - #4. The **Child Test** is for people who have children and it asks:

#### By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.biz). They can be contacted at biz\_results@yahoo.com.



Would I want my children to follow my example and act in a similar way? Would I be willing to explain everything to them if they learned about my behavior?

- #3. The Consequences Test: What are the possible consequences of my behavior? Would it be undesirable or would I regret it? The consequence may be immediate, but sometimes it can occur weeks or months later.
- #2. The **If-Everyone-Did-It Test**: What kind of business would my business be if everyone in my business did the same as me? Would I want to manage a company if everybody did what I did? Would I want to live in a community if everybody did what I did?
- #1. The first way to determine the best action to take in any situation is to ask yourself the **Golden Rule**: Would I want other people to do this to me? Would I want to be treated in the same manner that I treat other people? The Golden Rule is a universal principle that provides a good moral way to live peaceably among one another. If everyone truly lived according to this one principle, the world would be a much better place.

# Rebuilding something better

early six months ago, my administration took office amid the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression. At the time, we were losing, on average, 700,000 jobs a month. And many feared that our financial system was on the verge of collapse.

The swift and aggressive action we took in those first few months has helped pull our financial system and our economy back from the brink. We took steps to restart lending to families and businesses, stabilize our major financial institutions, and help homeowners stay in their homes and pay their mortgages. We also passed the most sweeping economic recovery plan in our nation's history.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was not expected to restore the economy to full health on its own but to provide the boost necessary to stop the free fall. So far, it has done that. It was, from the start, a two-year program, and it will steadily save and create jobs as it ramps up over this summer and fall. We must let it work the way it's supposed to, with the understanding that in any recession, unemployment tends to recover more slowly than other measures of economic activity.

I am confident that the United States of America will weather this economic storm. But once we clear away the wreckage, the real question is what we will build in its place. Even as we rescue this economy from a full-blown crisis, I have insisted that we must rebuild it better than before. For if we do not seize this moment to confront the weaknesses that have plagued our economy for decades, we will consign ourselves and our children to future crises, sluggish growth, or both.

There are some who say we must wait to meet our greatest chal-

lenges. They favor an incremental approach or believe that doing nothing is somehow an answer. But that is exactly the thinking that led us to this predicament. Ignoring big challenges and deferring tough decisions is what Washington has done for decades, and it's exactly what I sought to change by running for president.

Now is the time to build a firmer, stronger foundation for growth that not only will withstand future economic storms but that helps us thrive and compete in a global economy. To build that foundation, we must lower the health-care costs that are driving us into debt, create the jobs of the future within our borders, give our workers the skills and training they need to compete for those jobs, and make the tough choices necessary to bring down our deficit in the long run.

Already, we're making progress on health-care reform that controls costs while ensuring choice and quality, as well as energy legislation that will make clean energy the profitable kind of energy, leading to whole new industries and jobs that cannot be outsourced.

And this week, I'll be talking about how we give our workers the skills they need to compete for these jobs of the future. In an economy where jobs requiring at least an associate's degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience, it's never been more essential to continue education and training after high school. That's why we've set a goal of leading the world in college degrees by 2020. Part of this goal will be met by helping Americans better afford a college education. But part of it will also be strengthening our network of community colleges

We believe it's time to reform our community colleges so that

#### By BARACK OBAMA

Special to The Washington Post

The writer is president of the United States.



they provide Americans of all ages a chance to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for the jobs of the future. Our community colleges can serve as 21st-century job training centers, working with local businesses to help workers learn the skills they need to fill the jobs of the future. We can reallocate funding to help them modernize their facilities, increase the quality of online courses and ultimately meet the goal of graduating 5 million more Americans from community colleges by 2020.

Providing all Americans with the skills they need to compete is a pillar of a stronger economic foundation, and, like health care or energy, we cannot wait to make the necessary changes. We must continue to clean up the wreckage of this recession, but it is time to rebuild something better in its place. It won't be easy, and there will continue to be those who argue that we have to put off hard decisions that we have already deferred for far too long. But earlier generations of Americans didn't build this great country by fearing the future and shrinking our dreams. This generation has to show that same courage and determination. I believe we will.

### Letter to the Editor

# PSS governance

I met with another concerned educator and we reviewed existing policy and worked out a solution to the governance problem at PSS that may or may not require legislation. Based on PSS policy (4850) there is an exiting hearing panel but there are serious problems with it:

I. The hearing panel is rarely used, if it has ever been used at all, which is why no one knows about it. The final decisions for complaints have traditionally been rendered by the Commissioner and never get to the hearing panel. Solution: The Hearing Panel must be extended to cover all appeals of complaints within PSS. The Commissioner's decision should always be subject to appeal and review by the hearing panel and complaints about the Commissioner should go directly to the hearing panel.

II. The hearing panel is presently composed of three board members. Board members cannot make decisions on complaints about the board and their own policies. It is a conflict of interest. Solution: The hearing panel should be composed of three stakeholders in the education system (parent, teacher and administra- monthly school report along with the principal to place a check and tor). The chairperson of the panel will always be the neutral party. The hearing panel will retain the advise of PSS legal counsel and the power to dictate a resolution.

III. The hearing panel never hears the appeal of a teacher when their contract is not renewed without cause, as the only appeal available to teachers who are terminated under these conditions is a letter to the Commissioner. If you compare students' rights and protections with teachers' rights and protections, you will find an extreme disparity, offering far more protection to students. Solution: PSS must either remove the terminology "non-renewed without cause" from teacher contracts or augment the policy to allow for an appeal to a decision of a principal not to renew a teacher's contract. Teachers have no form of due process under the present contract conditions, which has allowed principals to violate their right to due process.

IV. Presently, the reports on schools only come from the principal with no checks and balance. There is also the impossible task of one person, the COE, in authenticating these school reports without the aid of a check on the school's report. Solution: The Parent Teacher Student Association at schools must be empowered to file a balance on the school's reporting and the principal's leadership and decisions which the COE can easily authenticate.

The challenging question that needs to be answered is: Will the state Board of Education implement these changes in policy or will it take a law to force the board to implement these changes? I would like to suggest that the Legislature start by drafting a resolution for these changes before proceeding with legislation, as the problem can be fixed internally. However, the Legislature has duty to ensure that our public school system has an adequate governance system that is functioning fairly, within ethical standards, to guarantee employees protection of their rights. A resolution by the Legislature will put the BOE on notice of the Legislature's expectations for improvement in the governance system at PSS. Should the BOE fail to change the policy in a timely fashion the Legislature will have every right to proceed with a law that will dictate the necessary changes in the presently flawed BOE policy.

#### **Ambrose Bennett**

Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

#### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly sunny with isolated showers. Fast winds 10 to 15 mph

**▲88° ▼77°** 

Guam and Rota Mostly Sunny

Palau

Yap

Chuuk

Pohnpei

Kosrae

Majuro

Auckland

Hong Kong

Los Angeles

Melbourne

New York

Honolulu

London

Manila

Miami

Osaka

**Paris** 

Pusan

Rome

Salem

Seoul

Tokyo

San Francisco

Beijing

**Micronesia** 

Showers

Showers

Showers

Showers

Showers

Rain

Showers

Showers

Cloudy

Rain

Cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy

Sunny

Partly Sunny

Cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy

Washington, DC Thunderstorms ▲86 ▼69

**Around The Globe** 

Thunderstorms ▲87 ▼78

Mostly Cloudy ▲85 ▼79

Partly Sunny ▲89 ▼66

Mostly Sunny ▲57 ▼36

Thundershowers ▲ 90 ▼79

Thundershowers ▲ 84 ▼70



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.

**▼77° ▲88°** 

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Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼76°** 



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▼76°** 

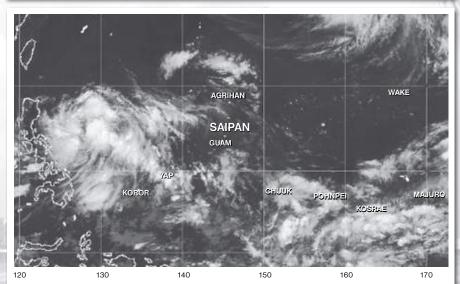


Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼76°** 

#### Yesterday's Satellite Image

**▲88°** 



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance was centered near 14N130E between the Philippines and the Marianas. Numerous showers and thunderstorms were located within 100 miles of the center. Further out satellite imagery showed scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms circling around this system from 5N130E to 9N134E to 9N140E and then up to 17N135E and back to 19N130E. This was just west of Koror but included Yap and Ulithi islands north of the Marianas. An upperlevel low located near 20N140E was still aiding a small area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 21N to 23N between 138E and 149E to the south and east of the Marianas. A broad circulation that is a part of the monsoon trough lies from 7N142E to EQ 159E. Pockets of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms were occurring east of Yap and just south of Guam from 4N to 12N between 140E and 146E and also from the equator to 10N between 150E and 159E. This included Chuuk and Pohnpei. Trade-wind convergence aided by upper-level divergence was producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the vicinity of Kosrae between the equator and 6N from 159E to 172E in addition just north of the Marshalls. Strong upper-level flow was helping to produce mostly scattered showers from 7N to 13N between 162E and 180 within this area isolated thunderstorms were located just to the east of Majuro.

STOCK CHARLES		
	ides	
Saipan Harbor		
12:58 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:19 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:46 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:33 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sı	ınrise/Suns	set	Moonrise/Moonset				
Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Today		12:53 PM		
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Friday	12:37 AM	1:51 PM		
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Saturday	1:27 AM	2:53 PM		
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM	Sunday	2:24 AM	3:58 PM		
Monday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM	Monday	3:27 AM	5:03 PM		

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

NMI CRIME

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■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

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■ TRAVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

through the following:

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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#### For pictures:

- tos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.  $\blacksquare$  Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number. ■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12

#### noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements: ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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#### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 13, 2009

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			C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6
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C09597	12:50pm 1:20pm	1, 7	C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
			C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6
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C09317	4:20am 5:10am	Daily	C09598	-	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09313	8:30am 9:20am		C09316		3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09597	11:50am 1:20pm	. ,	C09596		7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:30pm 1:20pm		C09600		11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
C09603	3:30pm 4:20pm		C09312		1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09605	6:30pm 7:20pm		C09602		2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09599	9:30pm 10:20pm		C09602		5:50pm	Daily
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NW78	9:00am 2:05pm		NW77	,	1:40am+1	Daily via N
NW75	3:50pm 6:25pm	Daily	NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN	-OSAKA (K	(IX)	OSAKA	(KIX)	-SAIPA	N
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C09317/893	4:30am 8:50am	via ICN 7 via GUM	0Z702/603	12.45)111	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm 8:40pm	Daily via GUM	PR110/C09596	6 10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
	9:30pm 7:45am-	+1 13567				via GUM Daily via G
C09599/PR111	7.Jupin 1.TJuni		CU031/0206	10.55nm	7-50 am+1	
C09599/PR111	7.50pm 1.45am	via GUM	C0934/9596		7:50am+1	
C09599/PR111	7.30pm 1.43um		C0934/9596 0Z704/605		7:50am+1 2:30pm+1	
		via GUM	0Z704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
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Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

#### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

	Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency	Airline	ETD I	TA	Frequ
	Guam-Ro	ota			FRE 113	11:40am	11:	50am
ı	FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:1	10pm
	Rota-Sai	pan			FRE 117	2:30pm		10pm
	FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm		10pm
;	Saipan-F	lota			FRE 121	4:40pm		50pm
-	FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm		50pm
	Rota-Gua	am			FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:1	10pm
	FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Sa	inan w/	con	necti
	Guam-Ro				flights to			
	FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	•	11014 01	Guc	
	Rota-Sai	pan			FRE 102	7:05am	7:1	5am
	FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:0	)0am
	Saipan-F				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:3	30am
	FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am		10am
	Rota-Gu	am			FRE 110	10:00am	10:	:10am
	FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:	15am
;	Saipan-T				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:	:10pm
	FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:4	10pm
	FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 118	2:50pm	3:0	)0pm
	FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm		30pm
	FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:1	10pm
	FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm		15pm
	FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:3	30pm

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**ETA** Frequency

Daily

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:40am 11:50am Daily

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# **Business**

#### Aid meetings continue for faltering lender CIT WASHINGTON (AP)—With banks repaying bailout money, credit markets beginning to flow and Goldman Sachs posting stunning profits, the financial sector would appear to be stabi-AUSTRALIA lizing. But CIT Group Inc., one 3,900.40

of the nation's largest lenders to small- and mid-sized businesses, teeters on the brink of collapse.

In meetings that recall last fall's late-night negotiations over failing financial firms, representatives from the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. were locked in tense meetings Tuesday about how to bail out the firm—or do so at all.

HONGIKONG

18,170.98

TOKYO

SEOUL

JAKARTA 2,088.64

K. LUMPUR

1,090.15

SINGAPORE

BANGKOK

LEADING **INDICATORS** 

DOW

8,359.49

+27.81

S&P

905.84

+4.79

NASDAQ

1.799.73

+0.36

**MONEY MARKET** 

Indonesian Rupiah 10,150.0000

South Korean Won 1,308.8000

1.2593

0.6127

1.1343

6.8326

0.7150

48.8200

93.5250

3.5690

1.5626

48.1350

1.4545

1.0877

32.9780

34.1100

Australian Dollar

**British Pound** 

Canadian Dollar

Chinese Yuan

Indian Rupee

Japanese Yen

Malaysian Ringgit

**New Zealand Dollar** 

Philippine Peso

Singapore Dollar

Swiss Franc

Taiwan Dollar

Thailand Baht

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Euro

The debate hinges on questions about how bad off CIT really is, and how its failure could affect about a million small businesses—from Dunkin' Donuts franchisees to retailer Dillards Inc.—that depend on it for credit.

CIT, which in April posted a bigger-than-expected firstquarter loss, has seen funding



In this April 27, 2006 file photo, Jeffrey Peek, Chairman and CEO of CIT Group Inc., talks during the dedication of the CIT global headquarters in New York.

options disappear as investors shy away from purchasing all but the safest forms of debt. The lender has \$7.4 billion in debt coming due in the first

quarter of 2010, plus other obligations. The recent downgrades of its credit ratings will make it harder to refinance that debt in coming months, raising

fears that it could default. CIT said Saturday it retained the law firm Skadden Arps, a bankruptcy specialist, as an adviser. Regulators know they can-

**BUSINESS BRIEFS** 

Wholesale prices, retail

sales both rise in June

small businesses, which could fail if their funding is disrupted. Small businesses are critical to the nation's economic recovery, providing about half of all private-sector jobs.

Yet the administration faces mounting criticism about the skyrocketing costs of bailout and stimulus plans, and the continuing rise in unemployment. Critics wonder whether the government should prop up firms like CIT that can't stand on their own. Unlike Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp., whose failures would have upended the banking system and created financial chaos, some say CIT may not pose such broad risks.

"This is all about where you draw the line, and a very big call has to be made," said Simon Johnson, a former chief economist with the International Monetary Fund and now a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Business.

# says July sales appear

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)-General Motors Co.'s top executive described July auto sales as weak compared with the same month last year, but said it's still early.

CEO Fritz Henderson, speaking to reporters Tuesday at an event to launch the redesigned Buick LaCrosse sedan, said it seems like industrywide U.S. sales will once again fall below an annual rate of 10 million vehicles this month.

The new GM, which just emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Friday, has said its debt load and other expenses have been reduced so much that it can become profitable at a 10 million to 10.5 million annual sales rate. The struggling automaker has lost more than \$80 billion in the past four years and has received \$50 billion in loans

from the U.S. government.

DETROIT (AP)—Former General Motors Corp. Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner will retire Aug. 1 with a pension

and benefit package the automaker valued at more than \$10 million.

Wagoner, 56, who was ousted by the Obama administration on March 30, will get \$1.64 million in benefits annually for each of the next

five years, plus an annual pension of \$74,030 for the rest of his life, according to company documents filed Tuesday with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The former CEO, who spent 32 years with the company, can also choose to cash

out his company-provided life insurance policy at \$2.6 million, according to the filing.

U.S. industry sales so far this year have been running below a 10

million annual sales rate as the economy has sputtered. GM's sales for the first half of the year are off 40 percent, while the overall U.S. market is down 35 percent.

Henderson said the company has struggled all

with weak sales while trying to significantly reduce its dealer inventory, but the inventory problem has been corrected. He said he's optimistic about a secondhalf recovery in auto sales because most of the government's economic stimulus measures have not yet kicked in.



Henderson

Yum Brands profit jumps in 2Q LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Grilling has put some sizzle back at KFC, but a reduced sales outlook took a toll on shares of KFC parent company Yum Brands Inc. despite a strong second quarter. The spring rollout of Kentucky Grilled Chicken, backed by an advertising blitz and a promotion on Oprah Winfrey's Web site that inspired a run on stores, led to surging U.S. sales at the chicken chain. That helped the operator of KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell post a 35 percent increase in second-quarter profit.

weaker than year ago

WASHINGTON (AP)—Higher energy prices rippled through

the economy in June, helping drive bigger-than-expected gains

in retail sales and inflation at the producer level. The higher

prices at the gas pump and for other energy products were seen

as temporary, but economists worry that consumer spending

will remain lackluster as unemployment rises, slowing a broad-

er recovery. The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that

retail sales rose 0.6 percent in June, the biggest gain in five

months. But without the gains from gasoline station sales and a

rebound in autos, retail sales actually dipped 0.2 percent.

#### **Dell shares dive as PC** market still looks rough

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Dell Inc. said Tuesday that the U.S. personal computer market has reached its low point but that the timing of a global turnaround in the technology industry remains anyone's guess. The pessimism sent Dell shares plummeting \$1.04, or 8 percent, to \$11.98 in afternoon trading. At a meeting with Wall Street analysts, the world's No. 2 PC maker elaborated on guidance it issued Monday, when it said it expects slightly stronger sales in the current quarter than in the last one. Despite these signs of improvement, Dell executives said Tuesday that many of the conditions that hurt the PC industry over the last several quarters aren't easing.

#### J&J posts lower 2Q profit, but still beats view

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Health care products maker Johnson & Johnson on Tuesday said its second-quarter profit fell 3.5 percent, as the global recession, stronger dollar and generic competition took their toll on sales, particularly for prescription drugs. Still, the world's most broadly based health care company handily beat Wall Street's restrained expectations, as J&J reduced spending on sales, administration and research by about 13 percent and production costs by 6 percent. The New Brunswick, N.J.-based maker of baby shampoo, Tylenol, contraceptives and biotech drugs earned \$3.21 billion, or \$1.15 per share, down from \$3.33 billion, or \$1.17 a share, a year ago.

# Intel's strong numbers suggest PC business on mend

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) position that the computer business is on the mend after its roughest patch in years.

Intel is the world's biggest maker of microprocessors, the electronic brains of PCs. More than three-quarters of the world's PCs use Intel chips. The company late Tuesday

posted second-quarter sales Intel Corp.'s second-quarter substantially stronger than results bolster the company's Wall Street expected, and its outlook suggests there's more good news to come. The stock jumped 7 percent in afterhours trading.

> That's not to say that personal computers are flying off the shelves. PC makers are still hurting, which shows how brisk business for Intel might take

months to translate into better numbers for its customers. The No. 2 PC maker, Dell

Inc., for example, warned this week that the U.S. computer market might have hit bottom, but its sales to businesses remain weak. CEO Michael Dell said penny-pinching computer buyers appear to be holding on to their existing machines for longer than is typical.

## Goldman Sachs fails to excite market; Dow up 27

got the results they wanted from Goldman Sachs, but the stock market's response was just a modest pop.

Mixed economic data Tuesday reminded investors of the challenges businesses still face and left the market zigzagging

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors all day. Stocks gained on a handful of strong earnings, while Treasurys tumbled on news of a jump in inflation.

Investors were pleased that Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s second-quarter earnings easily surpassed analysts' forecasts thanks to big gains in trading and

underwriting. But the release of the results came as something of an anticlimax, as anticipation of a strong report sent the entire stock market soaring Monday.

Johnson & Johnson also had better-than-expected results, although its profits fell 3.5

# Nation

# Sotomayor pushes back hard on racial bias charges

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sonia Sotomayor pushed back vigorously Tuesday against Republican charges that she would bring bias and a liberal agenda to her seat as the first Hispanic woman on the Supreme Court, insisting

repeatedly she would be impartial as GOP senators tried to undercut her with her own words from past speeches.

For all the pointed questioning in a grueling, daylong hearing, there was little doubt that President Barack Obama's first high court choice—with solid backing from the Democrats and their lopsided Senate majority—would be confirmed. Sen. Patrick Leahy, Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Com-

mittee, said as much—and predicted she would receive at least some Republican backing.

Sotomayor, 55, kept her composure—judge-like, supporters said—during the intense day of questions and answer, listening intently and scribbling notes as senators peppered her with queries, then leaning into her microphone and gesturing for emphasis as she responded. She returns for another full day of

"My record shows that at no point or time have I ever permitted my personal views or sympathies to influence the outcome of a case," the appeals court judge declared during a tense exchange

questioning on Wednesday.

with Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the committee that is conducting this week's confirmation hearings. He repeatedly questioned her ability to be objective as a Supreme Court justice, citing her own comments.

Sotomayor backed away from perhaps the most damaging words that had been brought up since Obama nominated her seven weeks ago—a 2001 comment suggesting that a "wise Latina" judge would usually reach better conclusions than a white man. She called the remark "a rhetorical flourish that fell flat."

"It was bad because it left an impression that I believed that to apply the law."

life experiences commanded a result in a case, but that's clearly not what I do as a judge," Sotomayor said

She also distanced herself from the man who nominated her, after Republican Sen. Jon Kyl asked whether Sotomayor shared Obama's view-stated when he was a senator—that in some cases, the key determinant is "what is in the judge's heart."

"I wouldn't approach the issue of judging in the way the president does," she said. "Judges can't rely on what's in their heart. They don't determine the law. Congress makes the laws. The job of a judge is



Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 14, 2009, before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

# House rolls out plan to make health care a right

WASHINGTON(AP)—House Democrats on Tuesday rolled out a far-reaching \$1.5 trillion plan that for the first time would make health care a right and a responsibility for all Americans, with medical providers, employers and the wealthiest picking up most of the tab.

The federal government would be responsible for ensuring that every person, regardless of income or the state of their health, has access to an affordable insurance plan. Individuals and employers would have new obligations to get coverage, or face hefty penalties.

Health care overhaul is President Barack Obama's top domestic priority, and his goal is to slow rising costs and provide coverage to nearly 50 million uninsured Americans.

Democratic leaders they would push the measure through committee and toward a vote in the full House by month's end, while the pace of activity quickened on the other side of the Capitol.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he wanted floor debate to begin a week from Monday. Other officials said that timetable was likely to slip. Even so, it underscored a renewed sense of urgency.

The House legislation unveiled by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats would slow the growth of Medicare and Medicaid payments to medical providers. From big hospitals to solo physician practices, providers also would be held to account for quality care, not just ordering up tests and procedures. Insurance companies would be prohibited from denying coverage to the sick. The industry also would face stiff competition from a new government plan designed along the lines of Medicare.

The liberal-leaning plan lacked figures on total costs, but a House Democratic aide said the total bill would add up to about \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private calculations. Most of the bill's costs come in the last five years after the 2012 presidential election.

# AP sources: House lays groundwork for CIA probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Intelligence Committee has asked the CIA to provide documents about the now-canceled program to kill al-Qaida leaders, congressional officials said Tuesday. The agency spent at least \$1 million on the eight-year program before it was terminated last month, one congressional official said. Intelligence officials say the operation never progressed beyond a planning stage.

The CIA said Tuesday that the agency would cooperate in the House move, a precursor to what would likely become a full-blown investigation into the secret operation and why the program was not disclosed to Congress. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized

**ACROSS THE NATION** 

terror alert system

to discuss the matter publicly.

CIA Director Leon Panetta, meanwhile, ordered a thorough internal review, agency spokesman George Little said.

Panetta told Congress on June 24 that he had canceled the effort to kill al-Qaida leaders with hit teams soon after learning about the operation. Panetta also told lawmakers that former Vice President Dick Cheney directed the CIA not to inform Congress of the specifics of the secret program.

President George W. Bush authorized the killing of al-Qaida leaders in 2001. Congress was aware of that notification.

A congressional official said the secret CIA program was meant to carry out ground attacks with hit teams. Most attempts to kill al-Qaida's

leaders, believed to be hiding in Pakistan's troubled western border region, have used armed drone aircraft because it is difficult terrain controlled by sometimes hostile tribes. But those strikes have sometimes killed and injured innocent civilians and caused outrage in Pakistan.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, is expected to decide as early as this week whether to press ahead with a full investigation into the CIA operation.

The House Intelligence Committee will try to establish how much was spent on the effort, whether any training was conducted, and whether there was any officials traveled in associated with the program, a committee official said.

## White House turns up heat on Arizona senator

WASHINGTON (AP)—The boosting the economy and that state, as Senator Kyl suggests, Obama administration is firing back at Sen. Jon Kyl for calling for an end to economic stimulus spending, and it's aiming where it hurts the most—at home in Arizona.

The White House on Tuesday released letters from four cabinet secretaries to Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, citing Kyl's comments outlining transportation, housing, Indian education and other projects in his home state they said would be eliminated if the senator has his way.

Kyl, the No. 2 Senate GOP leader, has said the stimulus spending hasn't succeeded in it's adding to the deficit. He's suggested on his Senate Web site

and in interviews that spending not already allocated be halted.

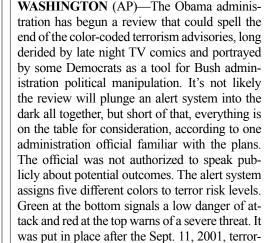
Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, one of two Republicans in Obama's cabinet, made no attempt to conceal his Kyl needling.

Kyl "publicly questioned whether the stimulus is working and stated that he wants to cancel projects that aren't presently under way," LaHood wrote Brewer. "If you prefer to forfeit the money

please let me know. Responding to the letters, Kyl

> charged in a statement that the White House was resorting "to coordinated political attacks with the Democratic National Committee and the politicization of departments of govern-

ment by using cabinet secretaries to issue thinly veiled threats to the governor and the people of Arizona." He also urged the president to "consider whether the unallocated stimulus money could be put to better use."



ist attacks and was designed to help emergency

**Colors could disappear from** 

7 charged with killing Fla. couple, stealing safe

responders get prepared.

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** (AP)—An ex-convict who taught self-defense to children. A day laborer who served prison time for killing a man in a fight. An Air Force staff sergeant attached to an elite special operations unit. Somehow, authorities say, they ended up part of a loosely connected group of seven men charged in the shooting deaths of Byrd and Melanie Billings, a wealthy Florida Panhandle couple known for adopting

children with special needs. The suspects, some dressed as ninjas, stole a safe and other items during the break-in Thursday at the sprawling Billings home west of Pensacola. Nine of the couple's 13 adopted children were home at the time. Three saw the intruders but were not hurt. Authorities would not say what was in the safe or what else was taken.

#### **Prosecutors claim evangelist** 'married' 8-year-old

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP)—Evangelist Tony Alamo preyed on his loyal followers' young daughters, once taking a girl as young as 8 as his bride and repeatedly sexually assaulting her, a federal prosecutor said Tuesday. Assistant U.S. Attorney Clay Fowlkes said that girl's story and others unwound an "elaborate facade" Alamo wove around himself. Lawyers for the 74-yearold Alamo, who is charged with taking underage girls across state lines for sex, argued that the alleged victims traveled across the country to further the outreach and business interests of a "bona fide religious group" that the government targeted out of its own prejudices. U.S. District Judge Harry F. Barnes swore in a jury of nine men and three women on Tuesday. They include a jobless personnel employee, a worker for a local construction company and an airport finance director who lives in Fouke, the location of Alamo's 15-acre complex that authorities raided Sept. 20.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009 **15** 

# Asia

# NKorea's Kim Jong II looks OK in new photographs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea released new photographs of Kim Jong Il touring a factory following reports earlier this week that the 67-yearold leader has pancreatic cancer and fewer than five years to live.

Wearing sunglasses and a shortsleeved shirt, Kim appeared generally OK in the images released Tuesday night—thin but no worse than in other recent photographs. He has grown frailer over the past year after reportedly suffering a stroke last summer.

In some of the images, carried by North Korean TV and the official Korean Central News Agency, Kim was walking around a newly built tile factory, smiling broadly. The photos were undated, but KCNA had sent a text report about the tour on Monday without specifying the date of the visit.

Other photos, however, showed Kim sitting in a chair during an outdoor briefing by factory officials while a soldier held a sunshade over him. Such images are unusual and could suggest his health may not be good, the Yonhap news agency said.

But South Korea's Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung said Wednesday that it is not the first time the North has released photos of Kim sitting during his field-guidance trips.

"Only by looking at yesterday's photos, it's difficult to determine" Kim's health, the spokesman said.

Kim's health has been the focus of intense media speculation because he rules absolutely and some analysts have said there could be a power struggle in the North if he were to die without naming a successor.



In this undated image made off KRT footage distributed by APTN on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, North Korean leader Kim Jong II claps while visiting Taedonggang Tile Factory, in North Korea.

On Monday, Seoul's YTN television said that Kim was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer around the time he was reported to have collapsed from a stroke in August last year. YTN quoted unidentified intelligence officials in South Korea and China.

Analysts, however, were skeptical,

saying Kim's increasing appearances in public this year suggest that he is unlikely to be suffering from cancer. Kim's latest trip to the tile factory brought the total number of such trips this year to 82, compared with 57 visits made during the same period last year, according to the Unification Ministry.

# China warns of reprisals in Algeria after unrest

URUMQI, China (AP)—China's embassy in Algeria has warned Chinese companies and workers to be on guard for attacks after an Islamist Web site called for retaliation for Beijing's response to unrest in its predominantly Muslim western province.

A notice posted late Tuesday on the embassy's Web site follows a torrent of ethnic clashes this month that left at least 184 dead in Xinjiang's capital of Urumqi. Riots by Muslim Uighurs and subsequent fighting between Uighurs and members of the Han Chinese majority were the worst ethnic violence China has seen in decades.

"In light of the (riots), the Chinese Embassy in Algeria reminds Chinesefunded companies and personnel to enhance security awareness and strengthen security measures," the notice said.

In recent days, postings on an Islamist Web site in the Arab world suggested killing Han Chinese in the Middle East, noting there are large communities of ethnic Chinese laborers working in Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

Urumqi was calm Wednesday, although security was tight, especially near Uighur areas after Monday's fatal shooting of two Uighurs by police. The city government says the two-and third man, who was wounded—attacked police trying to break up a fight.

China has been worried that the vio-

lence may overshadow its good relations with Muslim countries. Turkey has already called the unrest "a kind of genocide." The Turkic-speaking Uighurs share cultural and ethnic bonds with Turks.

On Tuesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang appealed for understanding of China's handling of the unrest and rejected assertions it would hurt Beijing's ties with Muslim countries.

"If they have a clear idea about the true nature of the incident, they would understand China's policies concerning religion and religious issues and understand the measures we have taken," he told a regular news conference.

# Japan's ruling party defeats new no-confidence motion

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso survived a no-confidence motion by an emboldened opposition in parliament on Tuesday but acknowledged his long-ruling conservative party faces a tough battle in national elections next month.

Aso's Liberal Democratic Party, which has ruled Japan for virtually all of the past 50 years, easily defeated the no-confidence motion submitted by the opposition bloc because along with its coalition partner the party controls the lower house of Japan's parliament.

But the motion gave the opposition, led by the Democratic Party of Japan, an opportunity to further embarrass the leader and heap criticism on Aso's economic policies and alleged lack of direction amid one of the country's worst economic downturns in decades.

Polls suggest Aso's party could lose when the parliamentary elections are held on Aug. 30. Aso. whose support is around 20 percent, announced the election date after his party suffered a major upset in polls for seats in Tokyo's municipal assembly over the weekend.

"I humbly accept criticism of our loss in the local elections," Aso told lawmakers. "We have to win this election by all means. We must continue implementing economic measures. It is our responsibility to the public."

Aso had to call the national elections by October—when the current roster's terms end-and had resisted calling them earlier. But he apparently decided to push ahead with them because of mounting pressure from the opposition, voters and members of his own party who want him ousted.

# Italian freed in RP missed football

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Six months of jungle captivity by al-Oaidalinked militants in the southern Philippines deprived Italian aid worker Eugenio Vagni of daily life, love and news from home-including one item that stunned him Tuesday: his football team didn't make it to the European Champions' League.

"Oh, no, no," the 62-year-old

Vagni said at a news conference in Manila, two days after Abu Sayyaf militants on southern Jolo Island freed him, ending one of the country's worst hostage crises in recent years.

The International Committee of the Red Cross worker, freshly shaved

and in a brown suit, recalled how he dodged gunbattles between his captors and government troops, survived on scant meals of fish and rice, and longed for his home near Florence with his Thai wife and daughter.

He appeared calm and composed, until the talk turned to football.

A journalist joked that Florence's team, Fiorentina, won Italy's Serie A, meaning it would automatically qualify for next season's coveted UEFA Champions' League. Fiorentina finished fourth and will not participate.

Vagni appeared riveted. "Please tell me because I don't know. I missed it for six months."

Italian Ambassador Rubens Fedele, who sat beside Vagni, cut in.

"Please don't say these things to a Flo-

rentino," Fedele said, smiling. "If he finds out it is not true, he can have a very bad reaction." The ambassador then gave Vagni the real newsdrawing the aid worker's anguished response.

Vagni was kidnapped with two Red Cross colleagues Jan. 15 in Jolo. Abu Sayyaf

later freed the Swiss and Filipino hostages but held on to Vagni, entering into negotiations for his release while troops tried to rescue him.

Vagni thanked President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the government's intervention when he visited her at the presidential palace Tuesday. He expressed sorrow for the soldiers who died while trying to rescue him.



#### **SKorean police: Hackers** extracted data in attacks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Hackers extracted files from computers they contaminated with the virus that triggered cyberattacks last week in the United States and South Korea, police said Tuesday, a sign that they tried to steal information from the victims. The attacks, in which floods of computers tried to connect to a single Web site at the same time to overwhelm the server, caused outages on prominent government-run sites in both countries. The finding adds to concern that contaminated computers were ordered to damage their own hard disks or files after the Web assaults.

#### Malaysia arrests 9 **Christians** on conversion claim

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)— Malaysian police have arrested nine Christians accused of trying to convert Muslim university students—a serious crime punishable by prison in this Muslim-majority country, a lawyer said Wednesday.

The suspects have denied the allegation, which could aggravate complaints by religious minorities that authorities are increasingly ignoring their rights in favor of Islam.

Proselytizing of Muslims by members of other religions is forbidden in Malaysia, though the reverse is allowed. Muslims, who comprise nearly two-thirds of Malaysia's 28 million people, are also not legally permitted to change religion.

#### **Helicopter reported shot** down in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—A civilian helicopter ferrying humanitarian aid was shot down Tuesday in a southern Afghan province where fighting with the Taliban is raging, killing all six Ukrainian crew members and a child on the ground, officials said. Two U.S. Marines and an Italian soldier died in the latest clashes. The transport helicopter crashed in flames in the Sangin district of Helmand province,

the center of Afghanistan's opium poppy cultivation where thousands of Marines are conducting their biggest offensive since the hardline Islamic movement was ousted from power in 2001. NATO officials in Kabul said the cause of the crash was under investigation and gave no further details.

#### Pakistani refugees return to Swat's main town

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Thousands more refugees returned Tuesday to the battle-scarred Swat Valley as Pakistani authorities struggled with transport bottlenecks and the refusal of some of the estimated 2 million people displaced by

fighting with the Taliban to leave refugee camps until they receive promised financial assistance. An army spokesman, Lt. Col. Waseem Shahid, said more than 900 families returned Tuesday to government-approved zones, an increase from the 650 families who went home Monday, the first day of the government-organized repatriation program. Authorities have declared most of Swat cleared of Taliban militants after nearly three months of fighting. The military campaign against the Taliban was strongly backed by the United States, which is eager for Pakistan to crack down on militants blamed for attacks in Afghanistan.



Vagni

# World

# Liberia's ex-leader denounces war crimes charges

THE HAGUE, Netherlands warlord described by prosecutors (AP)—His combat fatigues were replaced by a dark suit and tie, and the tinted aviator glasses gave the former Liberian leader a haughty air as he took the stand Tuesday to emphatically denounce the war crimes charges against him as "disinformation, misinformation, lies, rumors."

Charles Taylor, once one of West Africa's most powerful men, is charged with 11 counts of murder, torture, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers and terrorism in his role backing rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

An estimated 500,000 people were the victims of killings, systematic mutilation or other atrocities in that war, with some of the worst crimes committed by child soldiers who were drugged to desensitize them.

The 61-year-old Taylor spoke with the confidence of a practiced politician as he began his defense by portraying himself as a peacemaker rather than the cannibalistic at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

charges, not even a minute part of these charges," he said from the

"I am not guilty of all these witness stand, raising his voice in anger. "This whole case is a case of deceit, deception and lies.'



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, right, and his defence lawyer Courtenay Griffits, left, are seen at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, July 13, 2009.

# Zelaya says Hondurans have 'right to insurrection'

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya said Tuesday that the Honduran people "have the right to insurrection" against the interim government that forced him out of the country.

The remarks appeared to pave the way for a further escalation of the conflict in Honduras, where Zelaya's supporters have staged massive marches demanding his return and one person has already been killed in clashes between demonstrators and soldiers.

Speaking at a joint news con-

ference with his leftleaning counterpart Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom in Guatemala City, Zelaya said that Hondurans have the right demonstrate, strike and even rise up against the gov-

ernment of Roberto Micheletti, who was named by Congress to replace Zelaya.

"Nobody owes allegiance to a usurper government that took power by arms, and the

people have the right to insurrection and to op-

pose those measures," Zelaya said, adding, "Insurrection is a legitimate process that forms part of the highest concepts of democratic sentiment."

Zelaya was toppled by a military-backed

coup June 28 and flown out of the country. He is recognized by virtually all foreign governments, but Micheletti has threatened to have him jailed if he returns.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias is mediating talks aimed at resolving the impasse, but Zelaya has grown frustrated by the

lack of progress and on Monday gave the interim government an ultimatum to reinstate him.

On Tuesday, Arias said talks will resume Saturday after two rounds of earlier negotiations failed to produce a breakthrough.

Arias also urged Zelaya to "be patient."

"I understand the desire of President Zelaya to return and reinstate himself as president of the Honduras people as soon as possible, but my experience tells me that one has to be a little patient," said Arias, who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in ending Central America's wars. "It's not easy to get results in 24 hours."

Like other deposed leaders before him who faced judgment—Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic and Iraq's Saddam Hussein—Taylor used his day in court to display devotion to his people and deflect allegations of wrongdoing.

Critics say the courts have been too lenient, giving men who led their countries into mayhem a chance to rewrite history. Many legal experts faulted Milosevic's judges for letting the Serbian virtually seize control of the trial, which ended prematurely in 2006 when he died of a heart attack.

Prosecutors called 91 wit-

nesses in pressing their case that Taylor provided arms, money and political support to Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for that country's mineral wealth, encouraging them to terrorize the countryside to suppress any opposition.

Dozens of witnesses, some missing their hands, testified in the past 18 months to the brutality of the rebels. Other witnesses formerly associated with Taylor claimed to have passed weapons and messages to the rebels on Taylor's orders and transferred illegally mined "blood diamonds"—sometimes in mayonnaise jars—in return.

## In month's turmoil, Iran death toll still unknown

CAIRO (AP)—Several dozen families camp outside Iran's daunting Evin prison, trying to learn the fate of loved ones who vanished in post-election turmoil. A month into the government crackdown, the number of killed and arrested remains unknown, but human rights groups believe the death toll is far higher than the official figure of 20.

Many of at least 500 known to have been arrested have disappeared in prisons, held in secret locations and barred from contact with families. Rights groups say perhaps dozens of others have not been heard of since the protests and their relatives still cannot determine whether they are now locked in a cell or dead.

Over the weekend, about 50 men and women held vigil in Tehran before the gates of Evin, the main prison for political detainees, waiting for news on whether their relatives are inside, a witness told The Associated Press. Some of the women read aloud softly from the Quran, others chanted "God is great" from time to time. But mostly they stood silent, the witness said.

"They will call you soon. Go home and wait for the phone to ring," a police officer told them. But the families remained in place. The witness spoke on condition of anonymity fearing retribution from authorities, and government restrictions imposed on the media barred photographing the gathering.

The crackdown on the gigantic rallies that broke out after Iran's disputed June 12 presidential election was chaotic. Not only regular police, but also plainclothes Basiji militiamen linked to the elite Republican Guards were involved in beating or firing on protesters, dragging some away in covered trucks to unknown locations.

The protests were sparked when opposition candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi claimed he was the victor and that official results showing a victory for hard-line incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad were fraudulent.

# US/Russian tensions rise over Georgia

BATUMI, Georgia (AP)—A U.S. warship anchored off Georgia for joint military exercises Tuesday while Russian jets pounded mock targets nearby in a sign of lingering tensions over the former Soviet nation turned U.S. ally.

The U.S. and Russian maneuvers marked a stark change in tone from meetings last week between President Barack Obama and Russia's Dmitry Medvedev, who expressed hope for repairing relations that have sunk to a post-Cold War low.

During meetings in Moscow last week, Obama warned Moscow to respect the territorial integrity of Georgia and reject the notion that it holds a zone of privileged interest among its former Soviet neighbors. Russia praised the U.S. administration, but made no concessions in its long-running dispute with the West over its role in the post-Soviet space.

Georgia is still seething over what it views as Russia's occupation of South Ossetia after the August conflict, when Russian tanks drove deep into Georgia before pulling back. Georgia had attacked South Ossetia, which has long had de facto independence, to try to reassert government control. Russian tanks and troops poured into the region and overwhelmed the Georgian army. Russia said it was acting in defense of locals with Russian passports.

Hopes have risen in recent months that the U.S.-Russia tensions that led up to that war would be defused under a new U.S. administration, but recent events in and around Georgia's mountainous lands suggest the two sides are still deeply divided.

The guided missile destroyer the USS Stout on Tuesday anchored off Batumi, where its captain, Commander Mark J. Oberlev. was welcomed ashore with Georgian music and wine. The Stout is the sixth U.S. warship to visit Georgian ports since the war.



#### **Mars flight** simulation experiment ends in **Moscow**

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian engineers broke a red wax seal and six men emerged from a metal hatch beaming and waving Tuesday after 105 days of isolation in a Soviet-era mock spacecraft testing the stresses space travelers may one day face on the journey to Mars. Sergei Ryazansky, the captain of the six-man crew, told reporters at a Moscow research institute near the Kremlin that the most difficult thing was knowing that instead of making the 172-million mile (276-million kilometer) journev they were locked in a four-piece windowless module made of metal canisters the size of railway cars. The

men, chosen from 6,000 applicants, were paid euro15,000 (\$20,987) each to be sealed up in the mock space capsule since March 31- cut off almost entirely from the outside world.

#### **Mexico identifies** 12 slain as federal agents

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)— Twelve people tortured and killed in a cartel-plagued Mexican state were federal agents investigating organized crime, the government said Tuesday, marking one of the boldest attacks on federal forces since President Felipe Calderon launched his war on drugs. Mexico's national security spokesman, Monte Alejandro Rubido, said the 11 men and one woman were off duty when they were ambushed and ab-

ducted by members of the La Familia drug cartel in Calderon's home state of Michoacan, which has been a center of his crackdown on drug traffickers. Their bodies were found piled up along a mountain highway late Monday near the town of La Huacana. Michoacan state prosecutor J. Jesus Montejano initially said Tuesday that they were soldiers, but the army denied that.

#### **UK** health booklet's message: Teen sex can be fun

LONDON (AP)—Britain's National Health Service has a message for teens: Sex can be fun. Health officials are trying to change the tone of sex education by urging teachers to emphasize that sexual relations can be healthy and pleasurable mechanics of sex and warning about diseases. The new pamphlet, called "Pleasure," has sparked some opposition from those who believe it encourages promiscuity among teens in a country that already has high rates of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The National Health Service in the city of Sheffield produced the booklet, which has a section called "an orgasm a day" that encourages educators to tell teens about the positive physical and emotional effects of sex and masturbation, which is described as an easy way for people to explore their bodies and feel good. Like more traditional sex education guides, it encourages demonstrations about how to use condoms and other contraceptives.

instead of simply explaining the

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009 17

# Environment

# Training aimed at improving sediment control and runoff

As part of ongoing efforts to prevent soil erosion and runoff, the Division of Environmental Quality hosted a free training—aimed at improving real-world application of erosion and sediment control practices—for CNMI contractors.

Throughout the workshop, which ended with a certification exam, participants learned how to apply these prac-

tices to meet CNMI regulations. The practices included

hydroseeding, erosion control blankets, inlet protection, check dams, stilt dikes, silt soxx, and silt fences.

Contractors learned about the practices, how to apply them, how to read site plans and how to maintain and close projects. The field portion, which was designed to improve on-the-ground success, gave participants a chance to see and try their hand at installing E&SC practices.

More than 60 people attended the free training, which was provided through grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A full-color, durable E&SC field guide for contractors was also developed as part of the project. DEQ plans to have printed copies available for purchase by non-workshop participants soon.

Results from the certification and training, which

took place in May 27 and 28, 2009, have recently been processed. Of those private contractors and government employees who took the certification exam following the training, 36 were certified. Their names will be posted on the Division of Environmental Quality Web site (www. deq.gov.mp/). DEQ's goal is to eventually amend its regulations to require at least one certified contractor on every active

Heavy precipitation events are common in the CNMI during the annual rainy season. High velocity stormwater draining through the watersheds erodes soil, picks up pollutants, and drains into coastal waters. Runoff water carries many pollutants, both naturally occurring and man-made. This type of pollution is often termed, "land-based sources of pollution" and is having a significant negative impact on coral reef health and coral cover throughout the populated islands

construction site.

Due to the overwhelming response to the workshop, DEQ plans to hold another one in the future. The time and date have yet to be determined.

of the CNMI.

The Division hosted the workshop, with consulting from Horsley Witten Group Inc. Supplies were generously donated by Hawaiian Rock Products, Tropical Gardens, ECTC, Filtrexx, and Geotechnical Supply/Belton Industries. (DEQ)



Rodney Camacho, second from left, a Marine Resource Technician with the Coastal Resources Management Office, poses with three of the Coral Reef Initiative Interns after conducting a reef flat survey at the Coral Ocean Point. From left is Sharisse Rivera, DEQ Watershed Intern; Francisco Palacios, DEQ NPS Education & Outreach Intern; and Wen-Hui Ye, DFW Fisheries Intern.

ON THE NET

www.deq.gov.mp/

# Seman honored for environmental protection work

The Environmental Protection Agency recently honored longtime Division of Environmental Quality employee Marvin Seman for his work and commitment to protecting public health and the environment.

**CORAL REEF INTERNS** 

"I would like to thank everyone for their patience and for taking the time to assist me one way or the other in fulfilling the task and getting where I am today, most especially to my wonderful family, the fine folks of DEQ and to USEPA-CID in believing in what we do," Seman said.

The commendation, which was awarded to him at the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference in June at Saipan World Resort, thanked him for his "dedicated assistance in support of the mission of EPA-Criminal Investigation Division" and his "outstanding commitment to the protection of public health and environment in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

In 2006, he was the first person from the Pacific Territories to attend the U.S. EPA-Criminal Investigation Division "Advance Environmental Crimes Training" held at the Federal Law En-



From left, John McCarroll, U.S. EPA Region 9; Marvin Seman, DEQ; and David Rosario, DEQ, at the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference. Seman was honored for his work to protect the environment and public health.

forcement Training Center in Georgia. Seman, who began his career with

Seman, who began his career with DEQ on April 1993 as a laboratory technician, worked his way up to becoming an environmental specialist and the Chemistry Section Head of the DEQ Environmental Surveillance Laboratory Chemistry Section.

In 2004, Seman moved to his current position as an Environmental Specialist III in DEQ's Safe Drinking Water Program Branch. Seman said the branch works to ensure all Public Water Systems provide safe and clean drinking water.

In addition to his primary responsi-

bility, Seman holds several other pointof-contact positions with numerous federal and local agencies, including acting as CNMI's Counterterrorism/ Water Security Coordinator.

tice sediment control techniques at the training.

As an active member of the CNMI

Marine Monitoring Team and DEQ's Emergency Response Team, Seman is on-call 24/7 to respond to complaints or incidents such as hazardous material spills, oil spills in our waters and weapons of mass destruction. (PR)

## Micronesia Challenge seeks outreach interns

■ www.micronesiachallenge.org

■ www.minapacific.org

Students passionate about protecting our natural resources, between the ages of 17-25, and enrolled in college are encouraged to apply for the yearlong internship position, also known as the Micronesia Challenge champion.

In order to assist with the implemen-

tation of conservation strategies toward achieving the goals set by

the MC, internship opportunities were initiated and the CNMI has two vacant MC Champion positions.

The internship is for one year, and may be extended for an additional year. The MC Champions are expected to spend at least 10 hours a week conducting Micronesia Challenge education and awareness activities for the residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The Micronesia Challenge, launched

in 2006, is a commitment by the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively conserve at

vely conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent

of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. For more information on the Micronesia Challenge, visit the Web site at www. micronesiachallenge.org.

For additional details on internship goals, requirements and qualifications, go to: http://www.minapacific.org/. For other related inquiries, contact Lisa Huynh Eller at 664-8510 or send an email to mina@minapacific.org or lisaeller@deq.gov.mp. (PR)

# Life & Style

# Potter trio look beyond graduation

By GEOFF BOUCHER (C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

WATFORD, England—There were so many faces. "Thousands. It felt like every kid in England wanted to be in the first 'Harry Potter' film." That's how producer David Heyman remembers the crush of casting options a decade ago when the spellbinding franchise began with

They found their Hermione in the daughter of two attorneys who seemed as driven as the character. Ron was discovered in a videotape audition plucked from a mailroom mountain. The future Harry was spotted by Heyman in the audience of a theatrical production and encouraged to try out. "It was kismet,"

the key decision of picking its young wizards. Heyman said. The little children are now young adults and, somehow, they have thrived in the face of fame, fortune and relentless pressure. Interviewed more than a year ago on the Watford, England, set of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" (July 15), the three stars talked to the Los Angeles Times about the past and the future and, most of all, the magic.

# Radcliffe feels at home in 'Half-Blood Prince'

By GEOFF BOUCHER (C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

WATFORD, England—Most movie sets are flimsy facades—the walls usually move when you lean against them—but not the airplane factory that a decade ago was transformed into the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and built to last. The floors and walls are real stone, and no one knows their cracks and echoes better than Daniel Radcliffe.

Well, maybe that's not entirely true. "I still get turned around in here," Radcliffe said as he wandered through an especially dim corridor. "I couldn't tell you the name of this set, but I know my way to all the sets. Well, pretty much."

Radcliffe was wearing a black suit with a shirt and tie the color of a dark red wine, his costume for a holiday party scene in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." In person, he has a quick smile and the same chipper enthusiasm as his world-famous character, but the actor also possesses a sly wit and calculating eye that quickly sets him apart from the puppyish boy wizard he plays.

Radcliffe, who turns 20 this month, has been wearing the Hogwarts robes since summer 2000, when "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling signed off on his casting.

In the subsequent years, Radcliffe has been called the world's richest working teen (he made \$25 million just last year, according to Forbes, and also inked a \$43 million deal for two more "Potter" films) and at age 16 he became the youngest nonroval to have an individual portrait put on display at Britain's 153-year-old National Portrait Gallery.

"I started this when I was about 10 or 11; it's quite mad if you think about it," Radcliffe said with a serene expression that suggested he is accustomed to the bedlam. That eighth and last "Potter" film is scheduled to be released in 2011 and will close out one of the most massive undertakings in mainstream film history.

No one would begrudge Radcliffe for taking a long break afterward, but no one who knows him actually expects that to happen. The actor performed to strong reviews in London and New York in Peter



Daniel Radcliffe, star of the new film "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," is interviewed on the NBC "Today" television program in New York Friday, July 10, 2009.

Shaffer's play "Equus," and the harrowing spiritual and sexual themes (along with the nude scenes for the star) were an emphatic declaration that Radcliffe wants to be more than Rowling's magical orphan.

"He's an extremely focused young an and keen to learn as much as he can at all times," "Half-Blood" director David Yates said. "He's pursuing a career that will carry him far beyond this role and these films. I have seen very few people his age with such purpose in them."

Radcliffe said the "Potter" soundstage has been a second home and a one-of-a-kind acting academy. Several generations of the best from British and Irish stage and cinema have passed through the franchise, such as Maggie Smith, Alan Rickman, Michael Gambon, Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson and the late Richard Harris, and Radcliffe tried to learn something from each of them.

Asked for an example, he points

out that Richard Griffiths, who plays Harry's sour uncle, was raised by deaf parents and, attuned to nonverbal expression, approaches his work with a more internal strategy than most actors. He first learns what his character is thinking in each scene as opposed to what he is saying.

Griffiths also once advised Radcliffe never to let the camera catch him when he wasn't thinking because the void would be read in his eyes; the veteran prefaced that counsel by saying it was told to him by Lee Marvin, who heard it from Spencer Tracy.

"Just think," Radcliffe said, "how many young people get access to that sort of advice and that sort of history?"

But it's Gary Oldman and Imelda Staunton who have left the biggest impression on Radcliffe. "To me those are the two that are just in the firmament," Radcliffe said as he relaxed between takes. "All of them, everyone, has been brilliant, but those are the two that mean something special to me."

Oldman (who once recorded a duet with David Bowie and portrayed Sid Vicious on-screen) tutored his young friend on bass guitar. Radcliffe is an intense music fan and jumped at the chance to discuss some of his favorite bands, which on the day of the interview included the Arctic Monkeys and the Libertines. He clearly enjoys the music's reckless energy and, perhaps, the idea of separating himself further from Harry Potter; he also likes using a bit of raw language and, with a wink, talking about the number of beautiful women in London.

Radcliffe's parents were with him when fate picked him for the role of Harry. The family was attending a play, "Stones in His Pockets," when they bumped into David Heyman, the "Potter" producer who urged the youngster, who had by then already starred in the British Broadcasting Corp. film "David Copperfield," to audition.

Fame has not pulled Radcliffe, an only child, away from his family. His father, Alan Radcliffe, stood not 20 yards away from Radcliffe during the filming of the holiday party scene and afterward they took a short stroll; viewed from a distance, the pair have the same gait and profile. Radcliffe chuckled when asked about it. "It's true, isn't it? People say I look like my father; I don't. I just have all the same mannerisms. If we walk down the road for 30 seconds, we will fall into step with each other."

His mother, Marcia Jeannine Gresham, told her son that as the "Potter" novels went along, she saw more of her son in the character and vice versa

"She read 'Half-Blood Prince' and she did say, 'Harry has started to argue like vou argue," Radcliffe said with a roll of his eyes. "He is very good in analogies, and I also use a lot of semantics, and it does really irritate people into submission really. Obviously J.K. Rowling actually had cameras in my house and knows that is how I argue. . . . '

Radcliffe laughed at this joke but then grew a bit serious.

"I would like to think I haven't been influenced by him too much just by playing him for so long," Radcliffe said. "I am thrilled to have this in my life, but it is separate from my life, you know?"

# 'Potter's' Watson enjoys Rowling's friendship

By GEOFF BOUCHER

WATFORD, England—How many people get to meet their maker and live to tell the tale? Emma Watson, with a chuckle, said that's how she has viewed the recent blossoming of her friendship with "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling.

During the filming of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," Watson contemplated the relationship she's developed with Rowling as she sat one brisk afternoon in her dressing room (relentlessly pink in its decor). "We talk, we e-mail each other now," she said, nodding toward her laptop and that morning's missive from the woman who is arguably the world's most famous living young-adult author.

"I must admit I still feel quite intimidated by her," Watson said. "Not because she is actually intimidating, but because I admire her so much, and we have all been such mad fans of the books and her and everything."

Rowling has said that Watson's character, the sweet but swotty Hermione Granger, is based in part on her own persona as a child. That has led to a mutual fascination between the actress and the writer who, together, have shaped the character. In "Half-Blood Prince," Hermione is the wounded heart of the film, dealing with her stirring feelings for childhood chum Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) as well as the dark threats gathering at Hogwarts.

"There are serious dangers brewing, but there is also a lot of romance and humor in this film," Watson said, "which I enjoyed quite a lot."

During the filming, Watson, who is now 19, had a certain famous pair of eyes looking over her shoulder far more often than in the past; Rowling was a rare visitor during the making of the first five "Potter" films-she was simply too busy with the ongoing series of novels—but with the final book published in summer 2007, the writer dropped by the Watford set outside London.

To hear cast members tell it, Rowl-

# Grint remains the mellow man of the 'Potter' trio

By GEOFF BOUCHER (C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

WATFORD, England—Rupert Grint may walk on red carpets, but with his glum smile and complete lack of pretension he seems as unaffected as the pub regulars enjoying afternoon beers back in his home village of Watton-at-Stone.

Grint will be 21 next month, but he seems older around the eyes and, like his character Ron Weasley, he doesn't seem as driven as the other two members of his famous trio. Daniel Radcliffe wants to be the Laurence Olivier of his generation, and Emma Watson is sorting through a handful of career options, but Grint, well, he seems to be meeting the future with a good-natured shrug.

"I was thinking about what it's going to be like when we're done, after the last movie," Grint said. "It is going to be really weird, actually. At the moment it seems quite far away. I don't know what I'm going to do, really. I'm going to miss it, I think, because it's been my whole life for a long time. I really enjoy it as well, every year we've come back and done it. All of this, this is what I know. ... "

Grint was sitting in his hushed dressing room at the cavernous "Harry Potter" set outside London, which has a pingpong table, a miniature billiards table, a huge television, a dart board and a giant cardboard cutout of his character. It's a dorm room for a fellow who never had any interest in college (unlike costar Watson, who had her choice of universities) and only adds to the sense that Grint is a lucky and carefree passenger on the "Potter" express.

That impression doesn't hold up to scrutiny for everyone. Alfonso Cuaron, director of the third "Potter" film, for instance, predicted that Grint was the most likely member of the "Potter" trio to go on to future stardom. Asked about that, Grint winced in embarrassment.

"Dan is the one who is very driven; he's ambitious and he knows there's quite a few things

down the road. I am a little bit more laid back. And Emma, I mean, she's really cool. We all get on really well; she's just a really good mate."

Grint said Watson is "like a sister," which made for some awkward scenes in "Half-Blood Prince.'

A major part of the film is young romance, in particular the love triangle involving Grint's Ron, Watson's Hermione and newcomer Jessie Cave as the smitten Lavender Brown. That provides a lot of this installment's humor, as does Ron's bid to be a Quidditch player.

About an hour before the interview in his dressing room, Grint was poised atop a gyrating contraption that is used to film the flying-broomstick sport (think high-impact aerial lacrosse). On command, Grint stared into a wind machine, pumped his fist and bellowed in triumph. But between takes he looked pained.

"It leaves you sore in the, uh, bicycle-seat area," he said after climbing down. "It's not as fun as I thought it would be.'



Actor Rupert Grint attends the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince", in New York, on Thursday, July 9, 2009.



Actress Emma Watson attends the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince", in New York, on Thursday, July 9. 2009.

ing became like one of the wise old ghosts who populate the fictional wizard academy of Hogwarts—she was a fairly common presence but one who never failed to startle and amaze.

That meant more to Watson, perhaps, than anyone else in the cast and crew. The other lead actors spoke about Rowling in casual terms, but Watson could barely tamp down her awe.

"I just really want her to like me," Watson said, sounding a bit like the insecure overachiever Hermione. "I'm always really keen to tell her how I feel, and maybe it's a bit much. She is so down to earth and funny and witty. ... I definitely see Hermione in her. She's genuine and brilliant."

Those are terms others use to describe Watson.

"Emma is astonishingly bright and just anxious to move forward with life," said "Potter" producer David Heyman. "She's been amazing to watch. She has these choices. She could be an actress or a model, but with her studies and success she could also be a lawyer. She could also be an artist. ... It's pretty amazing to see."

The day she was interviewed on the set, though, Watson was most excited about the new possession she proudly showed a visitor: Her first driver's license. makeup lady gave me a car freshener as a gift," she chirped. "It's all quite cool."

The actress, the other two members of the "Potter" trio, seems remarkably grounded despite the oddities that come her way, such as the roomful of Bibles that have been sent to her by fans. Why Bibles? "I have idea. They just come in the mail. People think I need spiritual guidance. Everyone sends Rupert pajamas. He has no idea why.'

Aside from school plays and the "Potter" fran-Watson's only acting credits

are her voice role in last year's "The Tale of Despereaux" and the British Broadcasting Corp.'s 2007 movie "Ballet Shoes," which was met with mixed reviews. Watson just made her debut as the new face of Burberry as the model for its autumn line, and she is on the cover of the new Elle looking nothing like the little girl from potions class.

A big topic of speculation in England is where the daughter of two attorneys will be attending college (the latest rumor: Columbia University) after she finishes the final two "Potter" movies. She spoke glowingly about life at Hogwarts but said it has been a lot of pressure on her through her teen years.

"I will look back on this part of my life, and I know it will be special, but it used to be that if I ever had a bad review or someone said, 'Oh, she is too this,' or 'She's too that,' I got upset about it," Watson said. "Now what I have worked out is that it would actually be physically impossible to be perfect for everyone. Everyone has a distinct idea in their head of what each character is like. So I've kind of had to lower my standards. I can't be perfect for everyone. J.K. thinks I'm perfect, and that's good enough for me."

# Gambon is playing by the headmaster's rules

HOLLYWOOD—Michael Gambon has played Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore for five years, but he hasn't been setting a good example for his students when it comes to finishing their homework: The beloved old wizard hasn't cracked a single one of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" novels.

The choice not to read Rowling's book series, he explains, is deliberate, and he points out that co-stars Ralph Fiennes and Alan Rickman haven't taken up the books ei-

'You'd get upset about all the scenes it's missing from the book, wouldn't you?" Gambon said via phone from New York, where he was promoting this week's opening of the franchise's sixth installment, "Harry Potter and the Half-

Blood Prince. 'No point in reading the books because you're Kloves Steve words.

And Kloves, along with director David Yates, has demanded an intense Dumbledore, who in the fourth film shook Harry when the wizard's name wound up in the Goblet of Fire. It's a characterization that isn't as pronounced in the book—Dumbledore doesn't yank and jostle his star

In fact, many riled-up muggles also took to the Internet

after the third film to complain that Gambon didn't have the same kindly grandfather aura that they came to expect in the books and in the first two films when the role was portrayed by the late Richard Harris.

Since joining the Potter cast in the third movie, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," Gambon has fashioned Dumbledore into a tougher patriarch, an urgent and mysterious force in the midst of impending war. Less cuddly, this Dumbledore is clearly presented as a formidable opponent to Potter's snake-faced nemesis, Voldemort.

And though Harris (who died in London at age 72 in 2002) had a twinkling gentleness, Gambon's Dumbledore is a wry observer with crackling wit when it comes to the misadventures of his pupils.

In "Half-Blood Prince," for instance, Ron Weasley's girlfriend Lavender Brown goes wailing past the headmaster after she loses her red-headed beau to Hermione Granger. The old wizard, with a smirking tone, muses, "Oh, to be young and to feel love's keen sting.'

The 68-year-old Irish actor, with an illustrious 40-year stage career and credits in more than five dozen films, is deeply respected by the young cast members, and it helps with their on-screen relationship

"He's got to be a bit scary," Gambon said of his Dumbledore. "All headmasters should be a bit scary, shouldn't they? A top wizard like him would be intimidating. And ultimately, he's protecting Harry. Essentially, I play myself. A little Irish, a little scary. That's what I'm like in real life."

The actor says the enormity of the "Potter" phenomenon hit him again recently at the London premiere of "Half-Blood Prince," where more than 4,000 kids turned up to get a glimpse of the magical cast. Gambon called it both heartwarming and bittersweet.

'I was really moved by the number of children there. It



Michael Gambon plays the character of Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore.

been there for hours. You feel responsible for them in a way. All their books and pieces of paper for autographs were all wet, the pens wouldn't work. It was so sad. It makes you realize how big this thing is."

The filming of the final Harry Potter movies, the two-part "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," is underway but Gambon's contributions aren't scheduled until February.

He says that makes it feel as if the end is still far away for him, but he has already begun to reflect on the experience.

"It's been," he said, "a real privilege."
Watching stars Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint grow up has been especially fun. "They've become worldly, wise and strong actors. That's been nice to see. You can say things to them now that you couldn't say

Like what? "Oh, I don't know. I dare not say," he said, chuckling. Should we assume the worst? "Yes," he answered with a cryptic bit of sass. How very Dumbledore.

# Hand-in-hand British musician, wife commit suicide

LONDON (AP)—He spent his life conducting world-renowned orchestras, but was almost blind and growing deaf—the music he loved increasingly out of reach. His wife of 54 years had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. So Edward and Joan Downes decided to die together.

Downes—Sir Edward since he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1991—and his wife ended their lives last week at a Zurich clinic run by the assisted suicide group Dignitas. They drank a small amount of clear liquid and died hand-in-hand, their two adult children by their side. He was 85 and she was 74.

The deaths were a poignant coda to Edward Downes' illustrious musical career, and have reignited a debate in Britain about whether people should be

able to help ailing loved ones end their lives.

The couple's children said Tuesday that they died "peacefully and under circumstances of their own choosing" on Friday.

"After 54 happy years together, they decided to end their own lives rather than continue to struggle with serious health problems," said a statement from the couple's son and daughter, Caractacus and Boudicca.

"They wanted to be next to each other when they died," Caractacus Downes told London's Evening Standard newspaper. "They held hands across the beds.

"It is a very civilized way to be able to end your life," he added.

Downes' manager Jonathan Groves said the couple were inseparable and would have



undated handout photo made available Tuesday July 14, 2009 shows renowned British conductor Edward Downes

"Sir Edward would have survived her death, but he decided he didn't want to. He didn't want to go on living without her," Groves said. One of Britain's most renowned conductors, Downes had a long and eminent career, which included years as head of the BBC Philharmonic and a five-decade association with the Royal Opera House.

In recent years he had become almost blind and nearly deaf, increasingly relying on his wife for support.

Joan, a former ballet dancer, choreographer and television producer, had devoted years to working as his assistant, but she was recently diagnosed with cancer of the liver and pancreas, and given only weeks to live.

Groves said he was shocked by the couple's deaths but called their decision "typically brave and courageous."

The double suicide is the latest in a series of high-profile cases that have spurred calls for a legal change in Britain, where assisted suicide and euthanasia are banned

Under British law, assisting a suicide is punishable by up to 14 years in prison. But courts have become reluctant in recent years to convict people. No relative or friend of any of the Britons who have died in Dignitas clinics has been prosecuted.

The Metropolitan Police force said it had been notified of the deaths, and was investigating. Charges are unlikely.

Despite evidence of changing attitudes, parliamentary efforts to change the rules have all been defeated-most recently last week, when Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords, voted down an amendment that would have relaxed the prohibition on assisted dying.

Sarah Wootton, chief executive of campaign group Dignity in Dying, said the couple's deaths showed the need to regulate assisted suicide.

"This problem is clearly not going to go away," she said.

"People should be able to make such decisions for themselves, but safeguards are the key," she said.

Peter Saunders, of the antieuthanasia group Care Not Killing, argued that loosening the law could "put vulnerable people, many of whom already think they are a financial or emotional burden to relatives, carers and the state, under pressure to end their lives through a change in the law."

More than 100 Britons have died in Swiss clinics run by Dignitas since the organization was established in 1998. The organization takes advantage of the country's liberal laws on assisted suicide, which suggest that a person can be prosecuted only if they are acting out of self interest.

Roughly 100 foreigners most of them terminally ill come to Switzerland each year to end their lives. Some are healthy except for a disability or severe mental disorder. Typically they go to a room run by Dignitas, which provides them with a lethal drink of barbiturates. In five minutes they fall asleep—and never wake up.

Other countries, including the Netherlands and Belgium, and the states of Oregon and Washington in the United States, allow the incurably sick to obtain help from a doctor to hasten their death.

Only Switzerland, in a law dating back to 1942, permits foreigners to come and kill themselves. Other organiza-

tions provide such services for Swiss residents, but Dignitas is the main organization for foreigners.

Critics accuse Dignitas of promoting "suicide tourism."

Dignitas charges 10,000 Swiss francs (\$9,200) for its services, which include taking care of legal formalities and arranging consultations with a doctor willing to prescribe the barbiturates.

Edward Downes is one of the most prominent Britons to have traveled to Switzerland because of its open attitude toward the practice.

He was born in 1924 in Birmingham in central England. He studied at Birmingham University, the Royal College of Music and under German conductor Hermann Scherchen.

In 1952, he joined London's Royal Opera House as a junior staffer—his first job was prompting soprano Maria Callas. He made his debut as a conductor with the company the following year and went on to become associate music director. Throughout his life he retained close ties to the Royal Opera, conducting almost 1,000 performances of 49 different operas there over more than 50 years.

He also had a decades-long association with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, where he became principal conductor and later conductor emeritus. In the 1970s, he became music director of the Australian Opera, conducting the first performance at the iconic Sydney Opera House in 1973

Edward and Joan Downes are survived by their children and grandchildren. The family said the couple had no religious beliefs, and there would be no funeral.

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#### Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Thursday 1:05 4:10

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13 

#### Synopsis

Synopsis

Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing im for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. Together t find the key to unlock Voldemort's defenses and, to this end, Dumbledore recruits his old friend and colleague, the well-connected and unsuspecting bon vivant Professor Horace Slughorn, whom he believes holds crucial information.

Borat trickster Sacha Baron Cohen returns to the big screen to offer yet another stinging dose of sociopolitical satire in this comedy that finds him assuming the

youth TV." Originally conceived as part of Cohen's cult television series Da Ali G Show, the character of Bruno offered a cleverly costumed Cohen the opportunity to highlight the absurdities of the fashion industry by interviewing

specting fashion icons and other haute couture hangers-or



#### Bruno

Thursday

7:30 Thursday 1:10 4:15

1:20

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah

4:30

Sacha Baron Cohen, Gustaf Hammarsten Comedy • Rated R

#### Synopsis Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scrat is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while ding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a



#### Mv Sister's Keeper

Thursday 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin Family Drama • Rated PG 13



#### Public Enemies

Thursday 1:25 4:20 7:05

Johnny Depp, Christian Bale Crime Drama • Rated R



#### Thursday

1:00

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



#### The Proposal

Thursday 1:15 4:05 7:10

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

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#### MICHAEL JACKSON UPDATES **Nurse: Police say** Jackson's body had

track marks LOS ANGELES (AP)—A nurse-nutritionist who worked with Michael Jackson says she was interviewed by Los Angeles homicide detectives who told her that needle marks were found on

the pop singer's body.

Cherilyn Lee said Tuesday that she told the detectives that she didn't see any so-called "track marks" on Jackson's arms when she provided vitamins and other supplements earlier this year.

Lee also was asked by the detectives Friday if she saw bruising on Jackson. Lee said she didn't but told police that Jackson's veins made placing an IV needle difficult, which could result in bruising.

Lee has said that Jackson asked her for a powerful anesthetic to alleviate his insomnia. She said she refused to help him get access to the drug, which was found in his home.

#### **Coroner's official** seeks records from **Jackson doc**

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A county coroner's official visited the office of Michael Jackson's dermatologist on Tuesday to follow up on a subpoena seeking additional medical records. Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said outside the Beverly Hills office of Arnold Klein that the doctor had been cooperating in the investigation.

Klein's attorney, Richard Charnley, said in a statement that his client will provide the documents Wednesday.

Craig Harvey, the coroner's chief of operations, would not specify what records were being sought.

Investigators have focused on the role drugs may have played in Jackson's death.

In recent TV interviews, Klein said he had sedated Jackson for past medical procedures. He denied ever giving the pop star an unnecessary dose of drugs.

#### Jackson promoter considers UK tribute show

LONDON (AP)—The promoter of Michael Jackson's London tour says he will decide this week whether to hold a concert in London to mark the pop star's birthday at the end of August.

AEG chief executive Randy Phillips said Tuesday that he is considering a show on Jackson's birthday on Aug. 29 with his siblings.

He told the BBC 6 Music radio station that any tribute concert would be broadcast around the world.

He said he had talked to Kenny Ortega, the director of hit movie "High School Musical" who had also helped direct Jackson's concerts. Phillips said he expects to make a decision about the concert this week.

Jackson, who died June 25, was due to have performed 50 concerts at London's O2 arena that is owned by AEG.

# Russell Brand returns to host the VMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV liked Russell Brand so much, they called him back for more.

The British comedian-actor—known for his deadpan, off-kilter humor-will host the Video Music Awards for the second year in a row, MTV announced Tuesday.

Brand, 34, says he feels "invigorated" to return as master of ceremonies for the live event,

David Arquette is raising aware-

ness about hunger by spending

some time inside a Plexiglas

box atop New York City's Mad-

The star of the "Scream"

movie franchise hopes to raise

\$250,000 for Feeding America

on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The organization is the na-

tion's largest domestic hunger

Donations are being ac-

relief charity.

ison Square Garden marquee.

Arquette stays in NYC box for US hungry

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Actor cepted on site or through text

page setup.

candy bars.

ment Council.

which will be held in New York on Sept. 13.

"It's very bracing, like stepping into a warm-no, a cool—powerful ocean," he said, poetically.

Brand, whose film roles include a scene-stealing role as a rock star in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," famously mocked the Jonas Brothers' purity rings at last year's

messages and a Facebook

is being sponsored by Mars

Inc., the makers of Snickers

Arquette, who's 37, will eat

during his stay in the enclo-

sure. He will spend about eight

He is chairman of Feed-

ing America's Entertain-

hours each day in the box.

The "Bar Hunger" campaign

show in Los Angeles.

"I'm gonna personally invite them because I love those boys," he quipped, noting "there will be some controversy" this time around.

The telecast will be staged at different venues, including Radio City Music Hall, where the VMAs were broadcast in 2006. MTV said country superstar Taylor Swift will perform; the nominees and other performers

will be announced later.

"There's gonna be huge performances all over New York City," Brand said. "On Brooklyn Bridge, there will be a performance. You know that spike on top of the Empire State Building? Someone is gonna perform on top of that. ... Its gonna be mind-blowing ... get ready. I don't know if you're wearing a hat, but if you are, you should hold on to it."



In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, host Russell Brand poses backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio

# **Country singer Ferlin** Husky recovering at home

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A spokesman for country star Ferlin Husky says the singer is recuperating at home after being released from a Nashville hospital.

The 83-year-old singer was admitted to the hospital July 2 and treated for an accelerated heart rate, possible pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Heart of Texas Records President Tracy Pitcox said Tuesday that Husky was released Friday and is resting at his home near Nashville. Husky also has a home in Vienna, Mo.

Husky was country music's top entertainer in the early 1960s with hits like "Wings of a Dove" and "Gone." His latest album, released in 2007, is called "The Way It Was."

Pitcox says Husky hopes to return to the road but does not have any shows scheduled.

amid his wife's deep religious conviction and grief over the death of his young daughter.

"The tension between faith "Creation" premieres in the and reason is prominent in contemporary culture, and this intimate look at Darwin puts a human face on a man whose theory remains controversial to this day," said festival director Piers Handling.

of his life. He col-

laborated on it with

author and humorist

known for the mem-

included "Brain Drop-

Carlin's other books

Tony Hendra.

Hendra is

oir "Father Joe."

# Connelly, Bettany open film fest with Darwin tale

David Arquette poses for a picture on the roof of the marquee at

Madison Square Garden in New York, Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

**TORONTO** (AP)—Real-life Brit, John Keats. "Bright Star," couple Jennifer Connelly and which premiered at the Cannes Paul Bettany will kick off the Film Festival in May, traces the Toronto International Film love story of doomed poet Keats Festival with the life story of Charles Darwin.

Bettany stars as the theory-ofevolution pioneer and Connelly plays his wife in "Creation." which opens the festival Sept. 10. The film is directed by Jon Amiel, whose credits include "The Core" and "Entrapment."

The Toronto event is among a flurry of film showcases, including the Venice and Telluride festivals, that help launch Hollywood's awards season each year.

Along with "Creation," the Toronto lineup will feature Jane Campion's "Bright Star," a drama about another 19th-century

(Ben Whishaw) and a passionate neighbor (Abbie Cornish).

Other films announced by festival organizers include Matt Damon and Steven Soderbergh's whistle-blower saga "The Informant"; Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner and Tina Fey's fantasy comedy "The Invention of Lying"; Clive Owen's widower drama "The Boys Are Back"; Michael Douglas' womanizer tale "Solitary Man"; Neil Jordan and Colin Farrell's Irish fairy tale "Ondine"; Robert Duvall, Bill Murray and Sissy Spacek's Depression-era drama "Get Low"; and Tim Blake Nelson's comic story "Leaves of

Grass," with Edward Norton in dual roles as twin brothers.

year marking the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth. Adapted from the book "Annie's Box," the movie centers on Darwin's struggle between science and God as he refines his theories

#### Some final words coming from George Carlin NEW YORK (AP)—Some final the book for the last decade

thoughts are coming from George Carlin.

Free Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, said Tuesday that the comedian's book "Last Words" will be published in November. Carlin died in June



Carlin

pings" and "Napalm 2008 at age 71 and worked on and Silly Putty."

**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing this in response to the letter from "Trying to Make a Difference in Ohio" (April 21). She is the 12-year-old girl who wants to help other students be more accepting of kids with spe-

Having friends is essential

for kids with special needs

cial needs. My name is Anthony Kennedy Shriver, and I am the founder of Best Buddies International, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.



I believe that friendship is the key to building the self-esteem essential to a happy and productive life, and that is why I started Best Buddies. In just two decades, Best Buddies has grown from one chapter to more than 1,400 chapters in 42 countries. Our six programs—Best Buddies Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e-Buddies and Jobs-positively impact more than 400,000 individuals with and without intellectual disabilities annually.

At Best Buddies, we envision a world where people with intellectual disabilities are recognized for their ABILITIES, embraced by society and valued in the workplace. Until that vision becomes a reality, we will continue to educate middle school, high school and college students; community members; corporations and employers about the emotional, functional and natural needs and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

I would like to add one more piece of advice to yours. I'd advise "Trying to Make a Difference" to visit bestbuddies.org to find out how to get involved with Best Buddies and urge her friends to do the same. And when school starts again, if her school does not have a chapter, I would encourage them to start one. In friendship.

#### ANTHONY KENNEDY SHRIVER, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

DEAR ANTHONY: Thank you for the suggestion. After the letter from "Trying to Make a Difference" was published, I heard from readers telling me what an important difference your program makes in the lives of children with special needs. I also heard from their parents, describing what a huge difference just one child can make if he or she reaches out a hand in friendship. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** My son is autistic and was teased badly by his classmates. I worked with the school to address the issue. The school talked to some wonderful older students about mentoring my son. They became his buddies, keeping an eye on him and teaching him how to more appropriately interact with other kids.

The truth is, there are far more nice kids than mean ones in this world, and finding students eager to help wasn't hard at all. The day those kids walked up to my son and asked him if he wanted to play catch was the happiest day in his life. He beamed from ear to ear, and he hasn't stopped since.

Any young person can absolutely change the life of a child with special needs just by being a friend.

#### DIAN IN OAK PARK, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a speech language clinician who has worked for more than 25 years in the public schools. I have found that presenting information to students about what it means to have a disabling condition is essential. Once children talk about actions they see that are not "normal," they learn to understand how "normal" these actions are to some children.

In our school, once the students become aware, they will seek out special needs children and include them in games and at lunch. We have implemented Recess Buddies, Lunch Buddies and social-skill whole-class lessons, which have met with success.

#### VALERIE IN VERNON, CONN.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440. Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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# **Pastimes**

#### Calvin and Hobbes

#### I'M TELLING THESE COMPANIES I INTEND BY GOLLY, IF THESE COMPANIES ARE GOING TO SUPPORT OBJECTIONABLE TV PROGRAMS THEIR PRODUCTS IF I'LL TAKE MY BUSINESS ELSEWHERE! THEY DON'T PULL THEIR ADS FROM A TV SHOW I FIND OFFENSIVE

#### By Bill Waterson

#### WAY DON'T YOU THIS CLEAN. WHOLESOME TELEVISION SHOM? иенн. Іт

#### **Garfield**®





# AND I'VE HIDDEN IT WHERE YOU CAN NEVER FIND IT IN WHICH CASE, I HAVE A (BURP) SURPRISE FOR YOU

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis





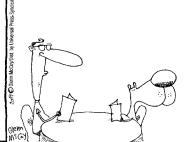
MAYBE I CAN SCARE AWAY

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1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch

tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

ramparts

STUMPED?

48 Priva-

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Corey** Feldman, 38; Barry Sanders, 41; Will Ferrell, 42; Michael Flatley, 51

Happy Birthday: You have to show your ability to be responsible and to take the required action. Your experience and what you have learned from unusual sources will come in handy now. Your memory will serve you well. Believe in your abilities and so will everyone you encounter. Your numbers are 1, 6, 10, 17, 24, 32, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may have to work a little harder to please the ones you love but don't give up. Your positive attitude and motivating spirit will win. With a little nurturing and undivided attention, you'll be on your way to getting your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be out of sorts or emotional about what others are doing or issues that are occurring, but you mustn't let this deter you from moving forward with your own personal plans. You can ease your stress with some unorthodox moves. **QQQ** 

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Don't be too quick to disregard what someone is doing or offering you. A good idea may not be perfect in your mind but, if you think it through, you will realize how you can turn something mediocre into something fantastic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are heading into territory that may not be familiar but, in the end, it will lead to a better position or higher status. There is something worth saying, so do not hold back when you have knowledge to share.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Give a little thought to love and romance and you will find you are in a position that will bring you great joy. Your charm and generosity will

make everything fall into place. A good deal will VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be shy because someone is trying to a sept. change your direction for the future. ••

feel inept. You have more to offer and can make a huge difference. Your responsible and concrete way of dealing with others will draw attention. OOOOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Give whatever you are working toward a shove before you lose momentum. Inspiring others to take part and contribute to your vision will keep things on schedule. You don't have to overspend or exaggerate to get the help you require.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful with whom you share your personal information. Someone will play emotional games with you if you are the least bit difficult to deal with. Put your efforts toward improvements

at home. **OOO** SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't forget about the ones you love and the people who have stood by you

through thick and thin. An opportunity may appear insignificant at first but, in time, you will discover that it's a much bigger deal than you anticipated. OOO

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A home project or a financial investment will pay off. Mix business with pleasure **EUGENIA** 

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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will want to partner with you—check credentials first. OOOOO AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You

have to keep your emotions out of any important decisions you make. If you let someone alter your direction or take you off your targeted course, you will have to backtrack. Staying in control will lead to your success. ••

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get out and touch base with people you haven't seen for a long time. The information you receive about a possible deal or job will help you get back in the running for something you long to do. Your past will help you get ahead now. OOOO

Birthday Baby: You have a strong will and are clever and intense. You are a gifted student with a great memory. You are competitive and productive.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3					6		5	
	1			7		3		9
			9			8	7	
		1						2
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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer								
5	2	3	4	7	1	9	8	6
6	7	8	3	9	2	4	1	5
4	1	9	5	6	8	3	2	7
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1	4	7	8	5	3	2	6	9
8	5	2	6	1	9	7	3	4
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5	2	3	4	7	1	9	8	6
6	7	8	3	9	2	4	1	5
4	1	9	5	6	8	3	2	7
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7	8	5	9	3	6	1	4	2
9	3	1	2	4	5	6	7	8
1	4	7	8	5	3	2	6	9
8	5	2	6	1	9	7	3	4
3	9	6	7	2	4	8	5	1

WONDERWORD.

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and C LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The left

SELF-HELP BOOKS

TDEESNLANOSREPS TIUSRUPHLEERAHS RSTUAACAOLVDA OCTLHHPCVPLPAGE PULSECCMEVEIHCA P S U A N S R R O S H O A S W USSSIOEAUCSEP SRNIECIREPPIELR LUOSNINSOSRLDSE IYCHNSRAITEEIRN STLVTEPONCSRUOE TLEPFUPITIEKGTS SNAEPEAIRSFDOCS THRONAOEYENRUOJ (M) (I) (N) (D) G N O I T C E R I D B

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Yesterday's Answer: Overlap

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**Saipan Tribune** 

# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF

NORTHERN MARIANA	
BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, /s.	) CIVIL ) ACTION ) NO. ) 01-0044
LUIS A. SASAMOTO, Defendants.	) SECOND ) AMENDED ) NOTICE

OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on December 15. 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in Mowing property: Lot No. 060 T 01, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Officials Cadastral Plat No. 060 T 00 dated October 12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 91-083, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Courthouse in Tinian The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 15th day of June, 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE Auctioneer

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# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS				
SANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, s.	) CIVIL ) ACTION ) NO. ) 08-0359			

JOSEPH S. ROMOLOR and TOIKO K. ROMOLOR,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on June 10, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 001 G 57, as more particularly described in Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 03 the original of which was recorded 20 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-0510 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, Description therein incorporated herein by reference.

Date. Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 17th, July, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale, The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or a the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, June 22, 2009,

/s/ Vincent J. Seman VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361 Attorneys for Plaintiff

#### Jimwaimwa Jim Cepeda P.O. Box 503520 Saipan, Mp

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The

Petitioner,

**Petition To Appoint** Civil Action General Guardianship No. 09-0301 ANITA N. JIM, Minor Child, NOTICE 0F By: JIMWAIMWA JIM CEPEDA,

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 29. 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 19the day of May, 2009

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan Clerk of Court

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#### **ADVERTISING POLICY**

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# Crawford, bullpen lead AL to win over NL



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Carl Crawford's glove and one of the great

bullpens in All-Star history helped save the American League's streak.

Crawford pulled back a home run with a leaping grab an inning before Curtis Granderson tripled and scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth, giving the AL a 4-3 victory Tuesday night at the new Busch Stadium.

"It was definitely probably the best catch I ever made," said Crawford, the MVP. "I didn't think it was going to carry that far, but it carried and I just had to find the wall, make the adjustment and make the play on it."

The AL has won seven straight times the All-Star game has been used to determine home-field advantage for the World Series, an innovation that began after 2002's 7-7, 11-inning tie at Milwaukee. It is 12-0-1 since its 1996 defeat at Philadelphia—the longest unbeaten streak in All-Star history.

Not even President Barack Obama's ceremonial first pitch helped the NL, which had been 4-0 previously when sitting presidents threw out the first offering. The NL scored all its runs in the second inning, and 22 of its last 24 batters made out.

AL manager Joe Maddon credited his bullpen "stallions" of Jonathan Papelbon, Joe Nathan and Mariano Rivera.

Starting with Hanley Ramirez's groundout off starter Roy Halladay that ended the second, AL pitchers retired 18 consecutive batters before Adrian Gonzalez's two-out walk in the eighth against Nathan. Orlando Hudson singled and, with pinch-hitter Ryan Howard at the plate, stole second before Howard struck out on a breaking ball in the dirt.

Rivera pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his record fourth All-Star save, breaking a tie with Dennis Eckersley and giving him eight All-Star innings over eight appearances with no earned runs.

Rivera was surprised Obama knew about his famous cutter.



American League players congratulate each other after defeating the National League 4-3 in the MLB All-Star baseball game in St. Louis, Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

"I had to come in and shut it down," he said.

Adam Jones drove in Granderson with the go-ahead sacrifice fly off loser Heath Bell, helping the AL narrow its deficit against the senior circuit

to 40-38-2. With four straight one-run victories, the AL matched the All-Star record for consecutive one-run games, set by the NL from 1965-68.

For the AL, pitching and defense was the key in the first All-Star game with-

out a home run since 1999 at Boston's Fenway Park. And at 2 hours, 31 minutes, it was the fastest one since 1988.

"The whole game was centered around pitching," NL manager Charlie Manuel said.

Crawford, who entered with a pinch single in the fifth, jumped at the 8-foot left-field wall to snare Brad Hawpe's leadoff drive in the seventh off Papelbon, which would have put the NL ahead 4-3.

"Wow, what a catch," Papelbon said on the mound.

Halladay, Mark Buehrle, Zack Greinke, Edwin Jackson, Felix Hernandez, Papelbon and Nathan came two outs shy of the All-Star record for consecutive outs, set by the NL in 1968.

Granderson sparked the offense with a one-out triple in the eighth off the bottom of the left-field wall. The drive went over Justin Upton, normally a right fielder, who took a bit of a circuitous route. Bell intentionally walked Victor Martinez, and Jones followed with a fly to deep right.

Jayson Werth also had a great grab for the NL, running down Justin Morneau's drive to deep left-center off Francisco Rodriguez to end the ninth.

Given a 40-second ovation before the game by adoring red-clad Cardinals fans in the sellout crowd of 46,760, Albert Pujols went 0-for-3 in six innings, made an error at first base in a two-run first and also had some nice defensive plays. He made diving stops on Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira in the fifth, throwing out Ichiro Suzuki at second from his knees after Jeter's grounder.

"It was great. You put it all together, hosting the All-Star game here in the place that you play with the fans and everybody, and a special presence by the president," Pujols said. "It was almost getting to the point where I got a little bit emotional."

Eight Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales paraded around the warning track, beginning a nearly hourlong pregame ceremony that culminated in the introduction of Cardinals Hall of Famer Stan Musial, followed by Obama.

Wearing sneakers, jeans and a jacket of his home state White Sox, Obama was greeted by cheers mixed with a few boos as he came out of the first-base dugout, shook hands with the 88-year-old Musial and went to the mound. The lanky president stood on the pitching rubber and threw left-handed from a windup. Biting his lip, he was determined to reach the plate. And he did with the help of Pujols, who moved up and scooped up the ball as Obama responded with a left-handed fist pump.

Obama became the fourth president to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at an All-Star game, following John F. Kennedy (1962 first game), Richard Nixon (1970) and Gerald Ford (1976 and 1978). All those games were won by the NL.

With the All-Star game back in St. Louis for the first time since the NL won 2-1 in 10 innings across the street at old Busch Stadium in 1966, the AL broke on top 2-0 in the first against Tim Lince-cum with the help of an error by Pujols, who allowed Teixeira's one-out bouncer with two on to bounce away. Jeter came around from second on the error, and Josh Hamilton hit a two-out RBI grounder.

"To be honest with you, I was feeling a lot of nerves out there, first All-Star game for me, just a lot to take in," said Lincecum, who missed last year's game at old Yankee Stadium when he was hospitalized with flulike symptoms.

The NL went ahead 3-2 in the second against Roy Halladay with four straight two-out hits. The Cardinals' Yadier Molina had an RBI single, and another run scored when Hamilton's throw from center field to third bounced off the sliding Shane Victorino for an error that allowed Victorino to score. Prince Fielder, winner of Monday's Home Run Derby, batted for Halladay and lined an opposite-field double down the left-field line.

Joe Mauer tied it in the fifth with a twoout RBI double off Chad Billingsley that sent Jeter with his second run of the night and fifth in All-Star competition.

# Crawford grabs All-Star MVP award



over the NL.

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Carl Crawford raced back to the left-

extending over the 8-foot wall.

For a moment, everyone waited. And then the Tampa Bay speedster raised his

field fence and leaped, his glove barely

mitt for all to see—yup, he caught it!
Crawford made a timely grab and snatched the All-Star MVP award Tuesday night, robbing Brad Hawpe of a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning of the American League's 4-3 victory

"He hit it pretty good off the bat and I didn't think it was going to carry that far," Crawford said. "I don't think I've ever robbed a home run before, so I picked a good time to do it tonight."

Making his third All-Star appearance, Crawford was elected by his fellow players as a reserve. He came off the bench as a pinch hitter in the fifth and singled his first time up before finishing 1 for 3.

Statistics show Crawford is one of the best defensive outfielders in base-

**ST.** LOUIS ball. But curiously, he's never won a (AP)—Carl Gold Glove.

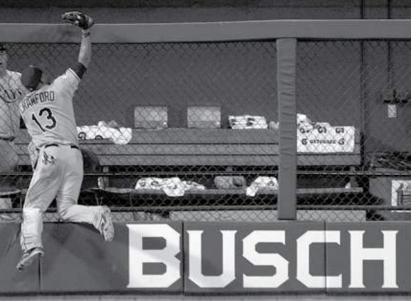
This could be the catch that clinches one.

"Defense wins championships and tonight we proved that defense wins All-Star games as well," said winner Jonathan Papelbon, who threw the pitch to Hawpe. "Obviously, it was a game-changing play. He won MVP because of that play and deservedly so."

The 27-year-old Crawford is best known for his dazzling speed—he leads the majors with 44 stolen bases. But he's developed into fine all-around player, batting .309 with eight homers, 39 RBIs and 58 runs for the AL champion Rays this year.

A three-sport star in high school, Crawford was so talented that he considered playing basketball at UCLA or option quarterback for Nebraska.

But he stuck with baseball, and it's proved to be a great choice. His outstanding catch helped the AL improve to 12-0-1 in the last 13 All-Star games—including seven straight victories.



American League's Carl Crawford of the Tampa Bay Rays makes a catch on a ball hit by National League's Brad Hawpe of the Colorado Rockies during seventh inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game in St. Louis, Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

"The ball was so high in the air, it gave me time to get back to the wall," Crawford said. "That's part of my game, playing defense. You can bring

that to the field every day."

Asked if the catch Tuesday night was his best ever, Crawford was quick to respond.

"It's got to be the top play," he said. "I was over the wall. It would have been a home run."

Waiting near the mound to receive his award, Crawford received warm hugs from several Tampa Bay teammates, including first baseman Carlos Pena.

Even his own manager was impressed.

"I've never seen him do that. The way he got to the position on the ball was great. And the catch, obviously, was fantastic," said AL skipper Joe Maddon of the Rays.

"I've been talking to everybody all year about this. Carl, he has become a better baseball player since I first met him in 2006. He's a better defender, a better thrower, a better baserunner, a better base stealer, and it's all because of his work," he added. "It's because of him. His work ethic is that good."

Now, he's the first Tampa Bay player to win the All-Star MVP award, which is named for Ted Williams.

"It feels great. They totally got me off guard today. I didn't think I was going to win it," Crawford said. "I'm just so happy, I don't really know what to say. I just hope I can come back many times and try to win it again."

# **Earpiece ban overshadows Armstrong-Contador duel**



UN, France

teammates Alberto Contador and Lance Armstrong. That's nothing, however, compared to the anger many riders feel toward Tour de France organizers.

On a day when Contador and Armstrong held their second and third spots in the overall standings and Britain's Mark Cavendish won the 10th stage, the Tour took a giant technological leap backward Tuesday.

Riders were stripped of their customary earpieces, left to fend for themselves and denied contact with their teams during the 121-mile route. The decision to ban rider radios and TV sets in cars was made last month.

The Tour wanted to inject drama into the race by eliminating earpieces for the 10th and 13th stages. Many riders—Armstrong, Contador and overall leader Rinaldo Nocentini of Italy among them-were far from pleased with the experiment.

"The fact is for us it's dangerous not to have them," Nocentini said. "There are dangers on the road."

Instead of drama, the Tour got a day of agonizingly slow riding. The only excitement came with Cavendish's dash a few hundred yards from the finish for his third stage victory in this race.

"The reason to have no radios was to have more attractive racing, and that's obviously not what happened," Astana team



Mark Cavendish of Britain takes off his sunglasses as he crosses the finish line to win the 10th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 194.5 kilometers (120.9 miles) with start in Limoges and finish in Issoudun, central France, Tuesday July 14, 2009.

director Johan Bruyneel said. "I think if that's what they wanted to accomplish, it's been a failure. I just think it's a bad idea to go back 20 years and do something like this, stupidly, in the biggest race of the year."

Earpieces allow riders to be linked to their directors in team cars. Riders can be informed of developments and told when they need to attack or chase rivals in a breakaway. The radio

transmissions are private and fans cannot listen to them.

The strategy was popularized by Armstrong when he won his first Tour in 1999. Some riders and former champions say the tactic makes cycling too clinical.

Wednesday's ride covers 119 miles from Vatan to Saint-Fargeau and again favors sprinters. The next earpiece-free stage comes Friday, a tricky course featuring one big climb and possibly many attacks. Armstrong suspects there will be an electronic change before then.

"My impression is that we'll have the radio on Friday," he said.

Armstrong is coming out of 3 1/2 years of retirement and chasing an eighth Tour title. Contador is aiming for a second title after winning in 2007. The Spanish mountain specialist was unable to defend his title last year because Astana was barred from the race because of doping scandals.

Armstrong maintains that talk of a feud between him and Contador is hyped by the media. Yet two days after telling French television there is some "tension" between him and Contador, the 37-year-old Texan spoke anew of "friction" with his Astana teammate. Only two seconds separate the riders.

"In the first week, the media are looking for stories to write," Armstrong said Tuesday. "They analyze every little thing. They say, 'They hate each other.' It's not the case. There's a little bit of friction, of tension. We both want to win the Tour."

Armstrong won seven straight Tours from 1999 to 2005. While he understands that a rivalry can be healthy, he is also aware that it can backfire.

"The biggest tragedy would be that the both of us want it so bad that somebody else gets (the Tour win)," he said.

Nocentini finished 34th Tuesday while Contador was 40th and Armstrong 46th on the route from Limoges to Issoudun. Nocentini stayed six seconds ahead of Contador.

Cavendish burst ahead to beat Norway's Thor Hushovd, whose grip on the sprinter's green jersey was reduced to six points. Tyler Farrar of the United States finished third in the stage.

"It was a really hard finish, slightly uphill with a lot of corners," Cavendish said.

Four riders were caught late in the race following a long breakaway. Cavendish then turned into the home straightaway before holding off Hushovd and finishing in 4 hours, 46 minutes, 43 seconds.

Last year, Cavendish won four stages but did not finish the race. He has now won seven stages in his Tour de France career.

"Cavendish is very, very fast," Hushovd said. "But it's true that he also has a very quick team."

PHOENIX (AP)— The Phoenix Suns want to see how Amare Stoudemire returns from eye surgery before offering him a contract extension.

The All-Star forward missed the rest of the season after a Feb. 20 operation to repair a partially detached retina, and last week he underwent another procedure as part of the recovery process.

"Ithink everything looks great, but before you make that kind of a financial commitment, or any commitment in this league, you have to know that your player is fine and ready to go," Suns general manager Steve Kerr said on Tuesday. "I'm on the same page as Charlie (Grantham, Stoudemire's agent) and Amare. We need to see Amare on the court in October and see that everything's going to be OK, which we fully expect. Before we make that kind of commitment, you'd better be sure."

After a workout at U.S. Airways Center last week, Stoudemire said he believes he deserves a maximum extension.

Stoudemire can become a free agent after next season, but he has said he'd like to remain with the team that drafted him in the

# Suns want to see healthy Stoudemire

NBA BRIEFS

#### **Boozer expecting trade**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Carlos Boozer doesn't expect to be playing for the Utah Jazz this season. Just two weeks ago, Boozer opted to remain with the Jazz for the final year of his contract. But the two-time All-Star told a Chicago radio station Tuesday he expects the Jazz to trade him. "The Jazz told me they want to go in a different direction and I respect their decision," Boozer said Tuesday during an interview with WMVP. "We mutually agreed to work out a trade that was beneficial for them and beneficial for my family and me. So with that being said I'm gonna be traded relatively soon or in good time." Jazz general manager Kevin O'Connor did not return messages seeking comment Tuesday. Boozer had an option to void the final year of his contract, but decided on the final day to stay with the Jazz for the guaranteed \$12.7 million rather than risk losing money in a tight free agent market.

#### **Pacers signing Dahntay Jones**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers have signed free agent guard Dahntay Jones. His agent, Aaron Mintz, says the Pacers were planning to make the announcement during a Tuesday news conference. He said the four-year deal is worth \$11 million. Jones started 71 games for the Denver Nuggets last season and played a key role in the team's run to the Western Conference finals. The defensive specialist averaged 5.4 points and 2.1 rebounds in the regular season, but increased those numbers to seven points and 2.4 rebounds in the postseason. Jones perhaps is best known for being assessed a flagrant foul for tripping Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant during Game 4 of the conference finals. New Orleans coach Byron Scott also complained about Jones' intense play against Chris Paul in on Tuesday for an undisclosed secondthe first round.

## **Frye comes home**

to play for Suns PHOENIX (AP)—Channing Frye grew up cheering for the Phoenix Suns. Now he'll play for them. "It feels good to be home," Frye said at a U.S. Airways Center news conference Tuesday. "I know I'm comfortable here. I know I can win in this state." The 6-foot-11, 250-pound Frye agreed to a two-year contract with the second year at his option. He will earn about \$2 million next season. The Suns formally introduced Frye, not that he needed it. His news conference was held in the arena where he led St. Mary's High School to the 5A state championship in 2001. Frye went on to become a star at

the University of Arizona, and four years later, he's back in the desert. "Just having an opportunity to play here, I take a lot of pride in this Suns uniform," said Frye, who will wear No. 8. "Probably more than any other team I've played for, this is that home team."

#### Hawks trade rights of **Andersen to Rockets**

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks traded the rights to forward-center David Andersen to the Houston Rockets round draft choice, cash and future considerations. The 6-foot-11 Andersen was a second-round draft choice of the Hawks in 2002. He has spent his professional career in his native Australia and in Europe, most recently in the Spanish League with FC Barcelona. The Rockets have been scrambling to find a center since the team announced last month that Yao Ming was out indefinitely with a hairline fracture in his left foot. Andersen averaged 11.1 points and 4.1 rebounds to help FC Barcelona win the 2008-09 Spanish National Championship and a berth in the Euroleague Final Four. Andersen was a member of Euroleague championship teams with Virtus Bologna (2001) and CSKA Moscow (2006 and 2008).

first round in 2002—as long as the Suns are contenders. Phoenix missed the playoffs last season.

The Suns have fielded trade offers for Stoudemire this summer. But if they decide to keep him, they could sign him to an extension at any point next season.

Those talks could heat up if Stoudemire comes back strong from his surgery, as he has vowed to do.

"We need to see him play," Kerr said. "Charlie knows that. Amare knows that. Obviously, the eye situation was more serious than what we first thought. The recovery time has taken longer."

Meanwhile, Kerr seemed optimistic that the club will be able to sign two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash to an extension. The team has an option for the upcoming season.

Kerr said he and Suns owner Robert Sarver planned to meet with Nash's representative this week in Las Vegas, where the Suns brass is attending the Las Vegas Summer League. Kerr said discussions with Nash have been upbeat.

"We've kind of put the ball in their court, and we'll see how the next meeting goes," Kerr said. "I feel confident, but it has to actually happen before we can celebrate."

# Roger goes undefeated in 8-ball

**By MARK RABAGO** 

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR



For the first time in months, the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament at-

tracted its full complement of pool sharks but none was in a frenzy more than Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu.

The Pacific Oriental, Inc. employee won all five games in last Saturday's poolfest at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole and claimed the championship with an easy victory over good friend Senen Pangilinan.



All 16 players of last Saturday's Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament pose for a photo. Front row from left, champion Roger Espiritu, Robert Sanciangco, runner-up Senen Pangilinan, Chester Hamoy, Chester Cueto, second runner-up R.J Mascarinas, Victor S. Hocog. Back row from left, Rolan Cultura, Erwin Gomez, Luis Fajardo, Roman Rodriguez, Rolly Villanueva, Bradley Demapan, Mark Butac, and Zheng Jian Qing. Not in photo is Juancho Mendoza.

# RGA board meeting Friday, July qualifier this Sunday



The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold a board of directors meeting this

Friday, July 17, 6:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room

RGA president Jordon Kossam said the agenda for the meeting will be the club's upcoming RGA Memorial Classic Tournament and the 2009

Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

In related news, RGA will hold its July Ace of the Month Qualifier this Sunday, July 19, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Check in time is

11am with tee off set an hour later at 12pm at the Agingan

Kossam

Point golf venue. The qualifier will have slots for 16 players.

RGA tournament coordinator Jess Wabol. meanwhile, said that the club will hold its July Ace of the Month Tournament

conjunction with the 2009 Tournament of Champions set for Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Marpi.

Wabol said the scores that will count on the ace tourney will be the ones recorded on the east course.

For more information about RGA's board meeting, its July Ace of the Month Qualifier, July Ace of the Month, and the rest of its tournaments for 2009, contact Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129. (PR)

Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. *(PR)* 

Espiritu opened up his campaign with a win over Chester Cuento. Others who advanced to the second round were Pangilinan (over Roman Rodriguez), Top Pool Bar owner Zheng Jian Qing (over Mark Butac), Chester Hamoy (over R.J. Mascarinas), Rolly Villanueva (over Robert Sanciangco), Rolan Cultura (over Bradley Demapan), Erwin Gomez (over Victor S. Hocog), and Juancho Mendoza (over Luis Fajardo).

Espiritu then continued his roll with a victory over Cultura. Other second round action saw Hamoy dispose of Zheng, Pangilinan beat Villanueva, and Gomez get the better of Mendoza.

In the quarterfinals, Espiritu outlasted Mendoza to join Pangilinan in the semis after the latter earlier advanced following his win over the upand-comer Hamoy.

Espiritu and Pangilinan were engaged in a nip-and-tuck match for the twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

Pangilinan started the fireworks by pocketing a ball on his break and proceeded to sink two more before missing on his third shot.

Espiritu uncharacteristically missed on his first turn on the felt table. However, Pangilinan

long odds to advance to the second semis and challenged Pangilinan for a spot in the finals.

Pangilinan didn't give his younger opponent a chance to build momentum as he quickly pocketed two balls after a Mascarinas scratch. Mascarinas did get back on the table but only to shoot a legal shot. Pangilinan then ran his remaining balls and advanced to play Espiritu for all the marbles.

He, however, had no success against the well-rested Espiritu. Pangilinan did make his first five shots but missed on the sixth. That was all he wrote, as Espiritu gobbled up his remaining six balls to win the weekly championship that earned him \$100.

Pangilinan and Mascarinas, meanwhile, took home the runner-up purses of \$40 and \$20, respectively.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a doubleelimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is \$10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676.



### **SCRAPPY**

From Page 28

man, Mercedes Mesa, Nicole Lebria, Nikita Hofschneider, Toi Smith, and Connie Camacho.

is set at 11am with tee-off time

The CNMI cagebelles earned 18 more points for playing in the five-team tournament. However, Sewell is thankful for the valuable things that the CNMI

bets learned from the meet more than for the ranking points.

a computer-controlled handicap

"I watched Nicole, Mercedes, Yvonne, and Yvette play some great pressure defense, chasing, harassing the point guards of our opponents and forcing several turnovers. These four did not have a clue to what defense was, six months ago. I watched Lia attack the basket time and time again with the aggressiveness of a seasoned veteran and scored, and then drilled her free throws, instead of settling for outside shots," Sewell said.

most tournaments.

"Lena came out of her shell and mixed it up underneath with the big ladies from all the teams and set some nice screens that led to easy baskets for her teammates. Dion worked hard against the New Caledonia ladies and consistently battled for

the boards," he added.

The CNMI Women's Nationals mentor also made special mention of Hofschneider and the two veterans on the team, Smith and Camacho

"Nikita played against New Caledonia with a severely weak ankle, but she aggressively drove to the basket, forcing fouls and then going 5-for-6 from the free throw line. Toi showed

court leadership in frustrating early on the big ladies from New Caledonia with her solid inside defense until she was accidentally elbowed to the nose, keeping her out of the game for 35 minutes," Sewell said.

"Connie brought the spark to the offense and the court leadership that this young CNMI team needed like only a quality veteran player can do," he added.

Sewell hopes these positive observations will help CNMI female players improve more and become competitive in future tournaments. He also wishes that those who played on the team and future players will give more commitment to the sport.

MDX

"I once at practice told the ladies if they, as individuals, are truly going to succeed they need to be committed," Sewell said.

#### RON'S

From Page 28

because it's just a small space inside the jungle. So my priority this year is to be in the middle of the pack so I wouldn't get stuck. Even if I'm a stronger runner than the guys in front of me I cannot just leapfrog over them

in the race. It's just too crowded and that's why I have to push ahead early," he said.

Before leaving for the Land of the Rising Sun, Villafria extended his thanks for companies and people who donated cash and in-kind items to help defray his expenses for his second stint in the Mt. Fuji Marathon.

Those Villafria thanked are the following: Salon de Manila, DFS Galleria, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Tan Holdings, Fiesta Resort & Spa, NRG-Shot (Distributed by Car Corp), Triple J, Bank Pacific, LBT Appraisal, Auto Glass Pro, Fomacon Liner,

GEC Pawnshop, Jazy Sportswear, Island Apparel, Coco Restaurant, Custom Construction, Bike Pro, MARPAC (Michellob), Traders Insurance. Saipan Shopping, Godfather's Bar, Sherwin Williams, 888 Handyman Services, Western Union, Marianas Visitors Authority, Steven Pixley, Susan Espanillo, Erwin Aquino,

Bobby Mandapat, John Ilao, Philippine Consul Belinda M. Ante, Philippine Labor Representative Joan La Villa, and Philippine Welfare officer Reynaldo Tayag.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top.

13, Gonzales 11, Leong 7, Ancheta

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 32-28, 53-39, 71-60.

6, Alvarez 6, Moscoso 2, Sevilla 2.

#### **Second Game**

Bayani 96 - Tabora 39, Delos Reyes 29, Vargas 12, Galulu 6, Catindoy 6, Hernandez 4.

MDX 87 - Samson 26, Montano 17, Canedo 15, Pablo 15, Ebuen 6, Malasarte 4, Salazar 4.

Scoring by quarters: 29-17,

Villafria was one of only 6,000 participants who have been pre-screened to take part in the 2009 edition of the Fuji Mountain Race.

#### MS. KAMIKAZE

From Page 28

them be patient in their first few games or training sessions.

"If you really find a sport interesting, join a team. You will never know what opportunities will come your way when you started to get involved with it," Camacho said.

"For future football players who may encounter difficulties in their game or at their practice, don't pressure yourself too much, have a positive attitude, and have fun. Fun is what makes a sport a great experience," the Paire goalie said.

#### BAYANI From Page 28

sluggish offense, as Dindo Pablo, Bernard Montano, and Nelson Samson started finding their marks. The trio combined for 18 of the team's 26 points in the third and MDX tied the game, 63-all, entering the payoff period.

However, MDX muffed its chances to steal the win, as it failed to neutralize Tabora, who made eight field goals in the fourth and was perfect from the foul line, going 5-for-5. Delos Reyes added seven markers in the fourth to preserve the victory and start Bayani's new winning streak.

In the curtain raiser, NMBA-Ebisuya snapped its two-game skid after beating MIFICPA Bowlers, 71-60.

A 21-11 third quarter run allowed NMBA to breakaway and improve its record to 2-2. The

Ebisuya-backed squad won its debut over MDX, but dropped two straight games before bouncing back against MIFICPA.

The Bowlers, who were hoping to enter the win column, kept NMBA at bay in the first half, but ran out of offensive options in the third quarter en route to a 0-2 record in the seven-team league.

MIFICPA was behind by only three at halftime, 29-32, but none of its players scored more than two points in the third quar-

ter, helping NMBA increase its lead to 14 points, 53-39, going into the fourth period.

NMBA hung in there with Francis Rebuyon drilling nine of his team-high 17 points in the final quarter.

#### **First Game**

**NMBA 71** – Rebuyon 17, Olivos 14, David 8, Tobias 7, Abedes 7, Casabuena 6, Peleno 5, Santos 4, Morales 3.

MIFICPA 60 – Epan 13, Ebuen

50-37, 63-63, 96-87.

# FIBA Oceania ranks the teams



The CNMI Women's National Team pose for a group photo in front of the beach at the Saipan Grand Hotel last month.

■ IBA Oceania released the rankings after the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament held on Saipan last month. All four visiting teams—Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Guam—made it to the Top 5 in the combined (men's and women's) rankings. The following photos are taken before the FIBA tournament. New Caledonia's men's team did not make it to the photo shoot, as their uniforms were shipped on the day of the tournament.

PHOTOS and TEXT By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



New Zealand's women's team and its coaching staff took their turn for the morning photo shoot and spent most of the afternoon getting



The Australia Women's Team are all smiles, as they took their turn in the photo shoot taken a day before the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament kicked off at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Guam's women's team had only eight players available for the photo shoot. Its ninth player planed in the next day in time for the opening



It took a few minutes for the New Zealand Men's Team to settle down for this outdoor group photo, as they had a hard time standing the hot weather.





CNMI's Micronesian rival, Guam Men's Nationals pose with their coach Vince Acfalle, standing left, and assistant coach Sid Guzman, standing right.



Members and coaching staff of eventual men's champion Australia gamely pose for the camera despite the



New Caledonia's women's team are all business for the photo shoot, but later gave the crowd a show as they cheered loudly for their men's team in the gold medal game against Australia.



#### Roger goes undefeated in 8-ball

For the first time in months, the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament attracted its full complement of pool sharks but none was in a frenzy more than Roger

"The Ghost" Espiritu.



#### Crawford, bullpen lead AL to win over NL

Crawford's glove and one of the great bullpens in All-Star history helped save the American League's streak.

Age: 14

Sports: Football



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Athlete's Name: Stephanie Camacho

Favorite Player: David Beckham

**28** THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009

# Scrappy CNMI cagebelles get coach's nod

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn monroyo@saipantribune.com

t's bad news that the CNMI Women's Nationals lost all their games in last month's \_2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament on Saipan and remained at the No. 11 spot in the newly released FIBA

fundaments through the FIBA caging.

REPORTER

"The young ladies who represented the **CNMI** should feel good about what they accom-



plished on the court," CNMI Women's Nationals coach William Sewell said when asked about his assessment on the team's performance in the tournament

The CNMI Women's Nationals was composed of Lia Rangamar, Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Dion Diaz, Lena Guz-

See SCRAPPY on Page 26



# Ron's mission: Finish in less than 4 hours

By MARK RABAGO

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Ronald Villafria has given himself a daunting task when he tackles the Mt. Fuji Mar-

athon this July 25.

The Filipino runner said he hopes to improve by more than 20 minutes the time it took him to complete Fuji Tozan Race last year.

For the record, the 36-yearold Coco Restaurant employee in 2008 finished the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388foot mountain in four hours and



20 minutes.

"My target is to finish the race in less than four hours," he said in Filipino in an email to the Saipan Tribune. "Last year I finished in four hours and 20 minutes and now I already know the system and I hope to improve my time from last year."

And experience is on the side of the Nueva Ecija, Philippines native, who departs the CNMI for Tokyo, Japan this Sunday.

"I need to avoid getting stuck on the trail part of the race. That's where a lot of the participants were stranded last year

See RON'S on Page 26





nais Competition in Tainan 'The person who encouraged me to start playing was my cousin Norman Camacho, who is also a member of the men's national team. My mom was also a great influ-

ing games," the 14-year-old player said. Like any first-timer of a sport, Camacho said she had a share of trying times when she was just beginning to play the

youth leagues and at the same time making it to the CNMI training pool. It's a great opportunity for a young player like me to eventual play in an off-island tournament. Playing football is one of the greatest things I've ever done in my life," Camacho said.

The young female striker is hoping more youth will join football or any other sport and when they do, she advised See MS. KAMIKAZE on Page 26

## Bayani starts new win run, NMBA ends skid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Bayani began a new streak, while Northern Marianas Bartenders Associa-

tion returned to its winning ways in the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball

A 96-87 triumph over MDX-Armatech last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court gave Bayani back-to-back wins.

Bayani started the league with a 2-0 record, but had its winning run ended by Boholanos-Raffy's Diner two weeks ago.

The deadly duo of Jun Tabora and Ronald Delos Reyes, who combined for 60 points in Bayani-Shirley's' 83-77 win over Cabalen last week, was at it again against MDX.

Tabora fired 39 points, making a fitting follow-up on his 32point explosion against Cabalen last Thursday. Delos Reyes, who logged 28 points against Cabalen, this time chipped in 29.

Tabora's drilled 21 of his

points in the payoff period, bringing order back to Bayani's offense. After leading by 13 at halftime, 50-37, Bayani struggled in the third period, as only Tabora made more than a field goal in that canto.

MDX capitalized on Bayani's See BAYANI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO NMBA-Ebisuya's Francis Rebuyon goes for a left-handed hook shot against MIFICPA Bowlers' Darwin Gonzales during their game in the masters division of the UFO caging last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

# Ms. Kamikaze is into soccer

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Sports runs in the family of female striker Stephanie Camacho so it's not surprising to see her play one.

Stephanie is the daughter of CNMI veteran golf and perennial winner Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho and a cousin of CNMI Men's National player Norman Camacho.

She is the goalkeeper of the Paire Football Club's girls' 18and-under team, which took the championship in the 2000 NMIFA Youth Spring Football League. The younger Camacho is also part of the CNMI training pool, on which 20 players will be selected to represent the Commonwealth to the EAFF Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifi-City, Taiwan next month.

ence, as she is always there for me, cheering for me dur-

game in 2007. However after two years, she is now doing well and is thankful for the

seen here with her

football is one of the greatest things she

had done.

sport's positive influence on her life. "Most of my teammates always tell me that I have developed good goal keeping skills

and become a good defender. However, there is always room for improvement, so I wish I could play as a forward and get over with my fear of playing that position," Camacho said.

"One of the good things that football has done to me is once I step foot on the field and get my game going, I feel stressfree. Stress is not the kind of thing that you bring on the field, fun and a positive attitude are," the Hopwood Junior High School graduate said.

The incoming Marianas High School freshman also liked the concept of being with a team and the opportunities that comes her way while playing football. "Through football, I am able

to meet a lot of new people. It's a great experience playing for Paire in the women's and